

Newburyport Tree Commission

Minutes October 13, 2016

Third Floor Conference Room, Newburyport Public Library

Meeting Convened at 7:06 PM.

Tree Commission members (TC) present: David Dylewski (DD) Acting Chair, Paul Bevilacqua (Secretary) (PB), Byron Getchell (BG), Jane Niebling (JN), Constance Preston (Treasurer)(CP), S.Taintor (ST), Wayne Amaral, Tree Warden and Deputy Director/Director of Operations Department of Public Services, ex-officio (WA)

Members Absent: Crispin Miller (Chair) (CM)

Open time for Residents

No residents were present

Report of the Secretary

The Minutes of the September 8, meeting were reviewed and unanimously approved. Change Commission membership. Paul Harrington requested that his status be changed to Alternate. That request was approved by Mayor. The vacancy created by that change was filled by Constance Preston as a voting member.

Report of the Treasurer

As part of a transition, the new Treasurer, CP developed the October financial statement in collaboration with CM. The statement was discussed at length and as the TC sought clarification of a few items in CM absence. CP will discuss the issues with CM and others as appropriate, and will report her findings at the November meeting.

CP agreed to work with CM and others to develop a separate statement listing donations from any source, either financial, services or materials which are received, but not incorporated into the financial statement.

The report was approved unanimously as there were no substantive issues requiring delay.

Report of the Tree Warden (WA): October 2016

1. Tree Warden Summary for 2016.

- 117 High Hazard trees have been removed this year.
- The most recent trees are;
 - o Boardman St #11
 - o Christopher St #1-3
 - o Dalton St #18
 - o Erie Ave #21
 - o Fruit St #14
 - o Morin Rd near trail
 - o NRA East Parking Lot
 - o Pine #3
 - o Pine #5
 - o Pheasant Run Dr.
 - o Philips Dr. #1
 - o Turkey Hill Rd #64 (2 trees)
- 0 Non-High Hazard trees have been removed.

2. Green Street sidewalk construction is finished and ready for tree planting, likely at the end of October.

Committee Reports

Tree Regulations/ Tree Plan Committee

PB noted that the Committee had no report. The Committee will continue to work with the Tree Warden, as needed, to update the documents.

Planting and Pruning Committee

Fall 2016 Planting: BG reported that the 15 trees scheduled for Fall planting had been planted as of October 13.

Green Street Planting: BG reported that 24 trees will be planted on Green Street by the last week of October. **JN, DD, CM** will work with **WA** and other appropriate offices to publicize the completion of this project and the support received from the Mayor, Council, and others.

Gateway 1 Project: DD reported that no new action but the project is moving forward.

Gateway 2 Project: DD reported that two trees were planted at the west end of Merrimac Street on the right side in the direction of the Chain Bridge, close to the roundabout. Space remains in that area to plant additional trees in that area when funds are available. Funds for the two trees were donated by the Newburyport Five Cent Savings Bank.

High Street Project: DD reported that this project will be the major focus of the Committee in 2017. There are 110 sites for trees in a 2.3 mile section from Atkinson Common to the Newbury line. T. Heatwole continues to volunteer his time working with **DD** and **CM** to design this project. Morrill Funds are being requested to begin to purchase trees for this project.

Spring 2017 Planting: DD and BG reported that sites have been selected and need only to be dig-safed to plant up to 21 trees. The **TC** unanimously confirmed its previous action of authorizing the expenditures of funds for this project.

Grants

JN reported that she will remain in contact with FoNT, and will update the **TC** on the progress of grant proposals submitted in collaboration with the **TC**.

Old Business

Update: Tree Care

Watering has progressed very well. The contractor has done an excellent job. The drought has been record breaking in degree and duration.

The meeting adjourned at 8:38 PM.

Respectfully Submitted, Paul M. Bevilacqua, Secretary

Next meeting: Thursday November 13, 2016 at 7 PM

Location: Children's Activity Room, Newburyport Public Library