

Newburyport Tree Commission

Minutes November 06, 2014

Newburyport Tree Commission

Children's Activity Room, Newburyport Public Library

Meeting Convened at 7:03 PM.

Members present: Ed Taylor (Chair) (**ET**), Paul Bevilacqua (Secretary) (**PB**); Sheila Taintor (**ST**); Crispin Miller (**CM**); David Dylewski (**DD**), Byron Getchell (**BG**); Paul Harrington (Vice Chair and Treasurer) (**PH**); Wayne Amaral, Tree Warden and Director of the Department of Public Services, ex-officio (**WA**)

Introduction of New Tree Warden

Wayne Amaral (WA) began work as Deputy Director and Director of Operations three weeks ago. **WA** is also the Tree Warden. He introduced himself to the Commissioner who introduced themselves to him.

Report of the Secretary

The Minutes of the October 9 meeting were reviewed and unanimously approved.

Report of the Treasurer

The report was reviewed and discussed. There was discussion of a charge which had incorrectly been made against one of the CPA grants. **PH** is working to have the money restored to the grant to be available to the Commission. The report was approved.

Tree Warden's Report

The Tree Warden, **WA** said that he did not have a report as he was just beginning to become familiar with this role and the various related activities. He did note that the City is in the process of hiring arborists as tree consultants, when needed, to review trees about which decisions need to be made. This is consistent with the responsibilities of the Tree warden as outlined in the Tree Ordinance. It is anticipated that **WA** will have a report at the December 11 meeting.

Sub-Committee Reports

Planting and Pruning

DD led a multi-part report.

DD asked **BG** to report on the planting of trees during the Fall. **BG** reported that the contractor discussed at the October meeting was not able to meet the City requirements, thus he withdrew from consideration. **BG** did identify another vendor, David Carville of Byfield, who offered to complete the work for the funds which had been previously approved. Working with Tony Furnari and **PH**, arrangements were made to contract with him, and the trees were planted.

CM reported that he, **DD**, and J. Esche had visited and updated the inventory of 116 trees of the 580 trees which were planted since 2006. **CM** projected that all the 580 trees would be inventoried by the end of the year.

CM volunteered to coordinate the Spring 2015 planting. The sites have been identified. The coordinator will need to determine the species, order the trees and request a Dig Safe performed for each site. The coordinator will also ensure that the trees are planted correctly and watered for the summer. At the October meeting **Anthony Furnari** offered that the DPS would assist in any way that it can, such as coordinating the Dig Safe, etc.

Green Street Planting

PH volunteered to coordinate this project. **WA** said that the cut outs for the trees will be completed in the Spring 2015 as the contractor is not available to complete the work this Fall. Work on resurfacing the street and replacement of the sidewalks will be initiated in 2015. The trees will be planted at that time. Much, if not all, of the financing is in place with CPA grants

Merrill Street

It was reported that the trees had been selected and that planting would likely occur in the Spring 2015. Unfortunately, the TC, had no input regarding the species selections. The trees are included in the contractor's scope.

OLD BUSINESS

FY 15 Free Cash Proposal

As agreed at the October meeting, **PH**, in collaboration with **BG** and **DD** submitted a proposal for funding from FY 15 free cash for Spring 2015 planting. It was agreed to include the cost of 16 trees, with specific locations indicated, along with sufficient funds for tree care for two years. The budget request will be forwarded to **WA** for consideration and submission to the Mayor.

FY 16 Budget

The Commission confirmed that a FY 16 budget proposal will be developed by the Finance and Planting/Pruning subcommittees. The format will be that of the most recent proposals and will include a brief narrative overview. The proposal will be on the agenda of the December Commission meeting. The goal is to reach agreement on this proposal as well as the larger FY 16 budget proposal at that meeting. Upon approval it will be submitted to **WA** for consideration and inclusion in the Department of Public Services' (DPS) request.

During the general discussion of this topic the importance of tree care was reiterated. It was noted that there was very little watering in 2014 as the Commission was not able to find a vendor who would do the work for the number of trees requiring water and the funds available.

Commissioners reiterated their very strong beliefs that no additional trees should be planted unless there the tree care in in place. It came to the attention of the Commission during the meeting that the previous vendor who had done this work for several years, but was not available in 2014 may be available for 2015. As discussed earlier the TC will work to identify interested parties and invite bidders to price the work. This will included the previous vendor.

NEW BUSINESS

Street Inventory Management

Deferred for future discussion and consideration

Tree City USA Application

ET reminded Commissioners that he would be requesting information, including volunteer hours in completing the application to the Arbor Day Foundation for Tree City USA recognition. The application must be submitted by December 31.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Paul M. Bevilacqua, Secretary

Next meeting: Thursday December 11, 2014 at 7 PM

Location: Children's Activity Room, Newburyport Public Library