

Newburyport Tree Commission
Minutes November 10, 2016
Children's Activity Room, Newburyport Public Library

Meeting Convened at 7:02 PM.

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

Members Absent: Sheila Taintor (**ST**)

Open time for Residents

No residents were present

Report of the Secretary

The Minutes of the October 13, meeting were reviewed and unanimously approved.

Report of the Treasurer

As agreed at the October 13 meeting **CP** met with **CM** and clarified issues relative to funding sources and allocations. The financial statement was explained, reviewed, and approved unanimously.

Report of the Tree Warden:

November 2016

1. Tree Warden Summary for 2016.

- 132 High Hazard trees have been removed this year.
- The most recent trees are;
 - Adams St #2
 - Adams St #4
 - Bromfield St #55
 - Highland Cemetery
 - Hill St #41
 - Jefferson St #33
 - Kent St #33
 - Madison St @ 35 Hancock St (2 trees)
 - Maple St #3
 - Merrimac St #454
 - Morin Rd
 - Munroe St #45
 - North Atkinson St
 - Plummer Ave #46
 - Turkey Hill Rd #53
- 0 Non-High Hazard trees have been removed.

2. Green Street Tree Planting - Completed.
3. High Street – High hazard tree removal at two locations (See discussion below)

Committee Reports

Tree Regulations/ Tree Plan Committee

PB reported that Ed Taylor has agreed to work with the Committee, as needed. The Committee will continue to work with the Tree Warden, as needed, to update the documents. There is no action at this time.

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 after six years the project has been successfully completed with all 30 trees being planted. The trees will be watered for during the 2017 and 2018 watering season to complete the project. This project was financed by CPA grants.

As agreed the completion of the project was well covered by local media, including a page one story and pictures in the Newburyport Daily News.

Nock School Project

This will be a new project. **WA** brought to the attention of the **TC** the possible need for action to remove and replace trees at the Nock School. He will consult with the **TC** if and when the project moves forward. **DD** will be the lead person on this project for the **TC**.

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

Gateway 2 Project: DD noted that the location at the west end of Merrimac Street on the right side in the direction of the Chain Bridge, where two trees were recently planted includes space to plant an additional tree when funds are available.

High Street Project: DD reported that this project will be the major focus of the Committee in 2017. T. Heatwole continues to volunteer his time working with **DD** and **CM** to design this project. He will attend the December **TC** meeting to update and discuss the proposal.

Spring 2017 Planting: BG reported that sites have been selected and need only to be dig-safe to plant up to nine trees. The project will be sent out to bid in January or February.

Grants

JN reported that no grants are pending. She will remain in contact with FoNT, and will update the **TC** on the progress when grant proposals are submitted by FoNT. She will seek support from the **TC** when collaboration is needed.

Old Business

Update: Tree Care

DD reported that watering had progressed very well, and that he and **CM** had mulched all of the newly planted trees. The contractor did an excellent job. The drought was record

breaking in degree and duration, but none of the trees planted since 2014 were lost. All Gator bags were collected.

New Business

FY 18 Budget

The Budget and Finance subcommittee comprised of **CP**, **CM**, and **PB** will develop and submit a budget to the **TC** for review and action at the December 8 meeting. It was agreed that it will be developed in the format used in recent years.

High Hazard Tree Removal Consultation

WA described the condition and situation relative to two trees on High Street which are leaning into and over the roadway. **WA** will consider the advice of the **TC** in making the decision as to removal.

Tree Acquisition/Planting Opportunity

CM brought an opportunity to the attention of the **TC** which could result in planting a number of Elm trees. The Elm Research Institute is a non-profit organization dedicated to restoring the American Elm. Since 1968 they have been cultivating disease resistant Elm trees. For \$50 each they will provide 1 ½" - 2", American Liberty Elm trees that stand 10'-12' tall. The trees will be available for Fall 2019 planting.

Full payment must be made by January 1, 2017, therefore a decision must be made at the December 8th TC meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:13 PM.

Respectfully Submitted, Paul M. Bevilacqua, Secretary

Next meeting: Thursday December 8, 2017 at 7 PM

Location: Children's Activity Room, Newburyport Public Library