

**City of Newburyport  
Tree Commission  
Annual Report FY2015**

**Mission**

The mission of the Newburyport Tree Commission as stated in the **Newburyport Code of Ordinances: Chapter 12: Streets, Sidewalks and Other Public Places, Article VI: Protection of Public Trees, Section 12-172** is to select, plant, protect, maintain, plan for and increase the health, beauty, quantity, diversity, and vitality of Newburyport trees.

**Responsibilities**

Advise the Tree Warden and other City officials with respect to the adoption and amendment of plans, programs and regulations pertaining to the protection of Public Trees in the City, including the City Tree Plan and Tree Regulations;

Monitor the health and protection of Public Trees, creating and updating inventories of such trees;

Identify issues relative to the health and protection of Public Trees and recommending solutions to problems identified;

Advise the Tree Warden and other City officials with respect to the planting and replacement of Public Trees and on tree-related issues;

Seek grants and conducting fundraising to assist the Commission's mission, such funds to be deposited into the Tree Fund;

Promote knowledge and awareness of the benefits of trees and their impact on the quality of life in Newburyport;

Actively design select, plant and maintain the tree ecology of Newburyport in coordination with the Tree Warden and the City Tree Plan.

**FY2015 Activities**

In furtherance of this mission the Commission, through the monthly meetings and committees, plans and implements several projects during the year either alone or in collaboration with the Tree Warden. These projects included:

- Planted thirty eight trees in the Fall and Spring in selected locations throughout the City's neighborhoods at locations selected through tree awareness programs presented by Commission members at Newburyport schools and upon review of City streets by both Commissioners and the Tree Warden;

- provided community education projects at Newburyport High School and the River Valley Charter School;
- conducted pruning and mulching of selected street trees on at least four occasions by Commissioners along with both community and professional volunteers;
- completed an inventory of over 600 trees which had been planted beginning in 2006;
- provided on-going support for and advice to the Tree Warden relative to hazard tree action and related issues;
- advised the Tree Warden relative to populating and maintaining the Tree Commission documents on the City of Newburyport website;
- provided seasonal watering and care for over 57 street trees which had been planted in 2013/2014 and 2015;
- established an Adopt- a-Tree program in a public/private partnership with the non-profit Friends of Newburyport Trees;
- begun the implementation of the Green Street tree planting project;
- advised both the Tree Warden and Northeast Urban Forest Advocacy relative to the Emerald Ash Borer problem and the proposed landscape work at the water front park by the Water Front Trust;
- established committees to work with Tree Warden to develop and publish both a list of trees appropriate to be planted in public streets and to create Tree Regulations consistent with Chapter 12:Article VI (Tree Ordinance).

### **Summary**

The Tree Commissioners are committed to continuing their volunteer efforts to meet their assigned mission and responsibilities and to build upon their accomplishments to date. The Commissioners would welcome an opportunity to meet with appropriate officials to discuss the work of the Commission.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Newburyport Tree Commission  
Crispin Miller, Chair  
Paul Harrington, Vice Chair  
Paul Bevilacqua, Secretary  
Jane Niebling  
Sheila Taintor  
David Dylewski  
Byron Getchell  
Ed Taylor, Alternate  
Wayne Amaral, Tree Warden (ex officio)