

**City of Newburyport
Tree Commission
Annual Report FY 2016**

Mission

The mission of the Newburyport Tree Commission as stated in 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.

FY 2016 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 44 trees in the Fall and Spring in selected locations throughout the City's neighborhoods at locations selected upon review of City streets by the Commissioners, the Tree Warden, suggestions from the general public, and the work of several volunteers.;
- developed a plan to raise supplementary funds for the purchase and care of trees in collaboration with other public, private, and nonprofit groups
- provided a community education project at Newburyport High School and collaborated with the NHS Environmental Club to plant a tree at the corner of Toppans Lane, and with the River Valley Charter School which contributed four trees which were planted on Perry Way.

- conducted pruning and mulching of selected street trees on by Commissioners along with both community and professional volunteers;
- provided on-going support for and advice to the Tree Warden relative to hazard trees and proposed tree action and related issues;
- advised the Tree Warden relative to populating and maintaining the Tree Commission documents on the City of Newburyport website;
- developed in collaboration with the Tree Warden, and posted a **Tree Plan** including: **Tree Regulations**, a **Guide for the Protection of Public Trees**, and a related **Check List**, the current **Tree Inventory**, and lists of both **Recommended and Prohibited Trees**
- provided seasonal watering and care for over 90 street trees which had been planted in Fall 2014-Spring 2016
- implemented an Adopt- a-Tree program in a public/private partnership with the non-profit Friends of Newburyport Trees (FoNT);
- expanded the items posted on the Tree Commission website to include: The Tree Commission Meeting and Operational Guidelines, Code of Ordinance: Chapter 12: Streets, Sidewalks and other Public Places, Articles VI: Protection of Public Trees, the City Tree Plan
- Initiated planning for several major, long term projects with the goal of planting large numbers of trees with funds raised from various private and public sources including Gateway I, Gateway II, and High Street
- Developed a strong, collaborative relationship with Friends of Newburyport Trees, a local non-profit, to raise funds for the purchase and planting of street trees.
- Updated the Tree Regulations in cooperation with Tree Warden; and, developed and published both a list of updated the Tree Regulations trees to plant in public streets and to create Tree Regulations consistent with Chapter 12: Article VI (Tree Ordinance).

Summary

As in the past, 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 Bevilacqua, Secretary

Jane Niebling

Sheila Taintor

Constance Preston Vice Chair and Treasurer

David Dylewski

Byron Getchell

Kim Kudym Alternate

Paul Harrington, Alternate

Wayne Amaral, ex officio Tree Warden