



City of Newburyport Tree Commission

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 9, 2023

The meeting convened at 6:30 pm.

Tree Commission members present: Paul Knowlton (Vice-Chair), Marcia Edson (Secretary), Marilyn Cohodas, Paul Harrington (Alternate), Scott Hanley, Bob Uhlig

Absent: Jamie Tuccolo (Tree Warden, ex-officio), Stephanie Pellegrini

Public comment:

Mark C. Ensign, 24 Broad St. -inquired about process for tree removal. He hasn't received any response from DPS, so Paul K provided Jen Sullivan's DPS email address.

Jim McCarthy – explained his plan to donate and plant and water 100 trees throughout the city. Jim voiced his concern that soil be properly amended before trees are planted and that watering trees be consistent for the first 2 years. He is passionate about trees and supports the work of the Tree Commission, FoNT and recently formed Port Parks Alliance. Paul K. asked about the 4 trees planted on Parker St. last year that have all died. The vendor should be notified so those trees can be replaced.

Cris Miller, president of FoNT

Reports

Tree Warden

No report

Secretary

Motion by Marilyn, seconded by Scott to approve the minutes of the October 13, 2022, meeting. Minutes approved.

Motion by Paul H, seconded by Paul K to approve the minutes of the January 12, 2023 meeting. Minutes approved.

Treasurer

Paul H. reported that he met with Ethan Manning and shared a year-to-date Financial Report. Paul clarified that there are 3 fund sources that support the work of the Tree Commission: the revolving fund (capped at \$9,000 per fiscal year), donation fund (FoNT monies) and the DPS operating fund (\$20,000 per fiscal year). Discussion centered around the complicated process of paying vendors for the purchase and planting of trees, along with 2 years of watering costs

spread through each of these accounts. Paul will continue to work with Ethan and Cris Miller on clarifying account procedures and processing payments.

New Business

Election of officers

Paul K. suggested that it might be more efficient to review tasks and break them down so that there would be a more equitable distribution of responsibilities among the commission members. Paul H. spoke to the need for more specific and reasonable expectations especially for the chair. This will give the new members a better sense of the tasks that the Tree Commission is required to complete.

Spring planting 2023

Paul K. shared the Spring 2023 Planting document. He and Bob Uhlig will work on appropriate tree species for the sites listed. Paul H. reviewed the overall costs for 20 trees to be planted this spring. Cris Miller reported that FoNT has procured donations for 5 additional trees to be planted this spring. He will share details with Paul K so that the Spring 2023 planting document can be updated.

Paul asked for any other suggestions for planting sites. Marcia suggested the area adjacent to the Sewer Plant's driveway on Water St. to replace the row of tall, evergreens that were cut down a few years ago.

Two trees that were part of National Grid's fall 2022 donations still need to be planted at 2 Beck St. Paul H. will check into that.

Tree Bag Collection

Paul K stated that there are still more than 20 bags on trees, mostly in the North end of town. Scott and Jim McCarthy volunteered to collect them. Paul K said some bags might belong to residents, but Tree Commission bags can be identified inside, labeled TC and the date.

Grants

Cris Miller suggested that since FoNT has an active committee working on grants, it would be more efficient for FoNT to seek out grants for the Tree Commission, rather than both groups. Tree commission members unanimously agreed and thanked Cris for FoNT's involvement. Cris

suggested that Steph be the Tree Commission liaison to FoNT Steph's report will be added to the monthly agenda items.

Community Outreach

Paul K. suggested that Community Outreach work be put on hold until the Commission is reorganized.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm. Next meeting will be at 6:30 PM, March 9, 2023, in the Program Room of the Library.

Respectfully Submitted,
Marcia Edson, Secretary