



City of Newburyport Tree Commission

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, 11 September 2019

Department of Public Services, 16A Perry Way

Meeting convened at 5:58 pm.

Tree Commission members (TC) present: Constance Preston (Chair) (**CP**); Crispin Miller (Vice Chair/Treasurer) (**CM**); Sheila Taintor (Secretary) (**ST**); Jane Niebling (**JN**) (in attendance for ½ hour); Andrew Soracco, (**AS**); Jamie Tuccolo (**JT**), Tree Warden, ex-officio; Lance Rickard (**LR**) Tree Warden Designee, Assistant Tree Warden, ex-officio

Tree Commission members absent: Paul Bevilacqua (**PB**); Scott Hanley (**SH**)

Reports

Secretary

The Commission approved the Minutes of the 14 August 2018 Meeting unanimously.

Treasurer

The August Treasurer's Report was unanimously accepted.

Tree Warden

No trees were removed in August.

DPS is down 4 people, and **LR** has been busy doing other work though he did manage to prune some trees in August.

JN reported no luck finding out more about the red maple moved from 49 Marlboro Street to Reilly Street back in 2012 or 2013 after checking with Jeff Esche. It was decided that the City will remove the tree and ask resident Britt McLoy to make a donation to buy and care for 2 replacement trees.

JT discussed the newly renovated house at the corner of State and Garden. The owner will work with **FoNT** to make a donation for purchasing, planting and caring for street trees.

Planting

The 275 trees received what would have been their last watering of the season had the watering not been canceled during the week of 7/22. As a result, they will be watered one more time, either next week or the week after.

CP will be taking over the fall 2019 planting for **SH**, who was just discharged from the hospital today. 49 trees are scheduled to be planted this fall, probably the week of 10/7.



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Bids for tree purchase and planting were due today but have not be opened yet.

At present we have money to plant 66 resident trees next spring.

Grants/Donations

CM reported that **FoNT** made a \$5000 donation to the **TC**. We are awaiting reimbursement for the **DCR** grant, but otherwise it is closed.

Education

AS reported that 65 copies of the “Guide to Newburyport Trees” have been placed in the hands of Newburyport teachers and school libraries: 55 to the Bresnahan, the Nock/Molin and the High School, and 10 to the River Valley Charter School.

Community Outreach

An article titled “Friends of Newburyport Trees keeps things growing”, written by **JN**, was published 9/9 in the Daily News as part of an ongoing series coordinated by ACES, the Alliance of Climate and Environmental Stewards.

CM reported that 100 more copies of the “Guide to Newburyport Trees” have been ordered.

CM recently appeared on “Life Along the Merrimack”, Episode 26, Dyke Henderson’s vlog (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uhr0L8NcUVQ>) to discuss Newburyport trees.

Old Business

PCI Synthesis

CP reported that the work proposal submitted by **PCI Synthesis** to the EPA has been approved. The proposal included a total of 63 trees to be planted in wetlands (the Business Park) and environmental justice areas such as low-income housing. The donation for this planting needs to be approved by the City Council (anticipated schedule: sent to Budget & Finance subcommittee at next meeting; followed by 1st and 2nd readings at the following Council meetings: 10/15 and 10/28.

New Business

Changing Tree Commission. The composition of the Tree Commission is changing: 2 members are stepping down, leading to other changes. **CP** informed the Commission that **DD** recently moved to Newbury, and therefore had to resign as of Sept 1. **JN** has also resigned. Both **DD** and **JN** made significant contributions to the Tree Commission and we will miss their presence. Sue Brown is submitting a letter to the mayor in application for a seat on the Commission, and **AS** is



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applying to move from Alternate to Commissioner. Janet Morris, currently on FoNT, is submitting a letter to be an Alternate and will take over grant writing from departing **JN**.

The meeting adjourned at 7 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sheila Taintor, Secretary

Next meeting: Wednesday, 9 October 2019 at 6 PM

Location: Department of Public Services, 16A Perry Way