



## *City of Newburyport Tree Commission*

### **Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday, November 13, 2019

Department of Public Services, 16A Perry Way

Meeting convened at 6:02 pm.

**Tree Commission members (TC) present:** Crispin Miller (Vice Chair/Treasurer) (**CM**); Sheila Taintor (Secretary) (**ST**); Scott Hanley (**SH**); Paul Bevilacqua (**PB**); Andrew Soracco (**AS**); Jamie Tuccolo (**JT**), Tree Warden, ex-officio

**Tree Commission members absent:** Constance Preston (Chair) (**CP**); Sue Brown (**SB**); Lance Rickard (**LR**) Tree Warden Designee, Assistant Tree Warden, ex-officio

### **Reports**

#### **Secretary**

The Commission approved the Minutes of the 9 October 2018 Meeting.

#### **Treasurer**

The October Treasurer's Report was unanimously accepted.

#### **Tree Warden**

The Total Street Trees Removed in 2018 is 89.

3 trees were removed in October:

30 Oak Street          2 Purchase St (storm damage)          Marlboro Street @ Reilly

The Total Street Trees Removed in 2019 is 38.

#### **Planting**

- Final 8 trees (7 Liberty Elms & 1 Sargent Cherry) were planted Oct 15 with a total of 48 trees in the Fall 2019 planting.
- All new trees were mulched on Nov 2 by Cris Miller and Dave Dylewski.
- The Spring 2020 list is currently being built.
- Chuck Griffin has requested that no more trees be planted anywhere near the perimeter of the Bartlett Mall without the consent of the Parks Commission. They are trying to restore the Mall to its original design and they feel street trees near the Mall will disturb that design.
- We will need to discuss a division of duties for the Spring 2020 planting and the trees planted with the PCI money. It will be too much for any one person to manage all of it.

## **Grants/Donations**

No update.

## **Education**

**AS** reported that 2 groups of RVCS students are primed to look for sites to plant street trees in the spring: a group of Middle School students (grades 7-8) and another of Elementary 2 (grades 4-6). **AS** asked **SH** to provide him with a list of streets to check out.

The City Forest is under the purview of the Conservation Commission, so **AS** will check with it to find out whether RVCS students can renovate a trail there.

## **Community Outreach**

On Oct 15 **CM** and Jean Berger made a 20-minute presentation on trees to the Rotary Club and sold 5 copies of the *Guide to Newburyport Trees*.

On 10/25 **CM** was on Mary Jacobson's Friday Morning radio show talking about trees in general, books on trees and the *Guide to Newburyport Trees*.

**CM** and Jean Berger will be presenting the hour-long version of "Shady Talk: All About Trees" as part of the Village Talks series on Nov 20 at the Senior/Community Center. They will bring some copies of our *Guide to Newburyport Trees* to sell.

Future plans include presenting to all the service clubs in Newburyport.

## **Old Business**

### **Follow-up on white pine at 1 Upland Street**

Dorothy and Joseph Fanaras, 1 Upland Street, have removed the white pine under discussion. **JT** will contact them to have them pay the City in accordance with the City Ordinance, Chapter 12-196.

### **PCI Synthesis Agreement**

The PCI Synthesis gift was accepted by the City Council on Oct 28. **CP** is working on getting the check for \$40,732 cut to the City. Funds will be deposited into a new account which the City finance office will create.

The Tree Commission will have until Fall 2021 to spend all the funds. The money will be used to plant approximately 63 trees in "Environmental Justice Areas", such as elderly and low-income housing developments and wetlands such as the industrial park, as well as on Plum Island, where there are currently 3 street trees.

**Tree Commission membership:**

Sue Brown was sworn in as a full member on Nov 1. She had a conflicting meeting tonight but will attend the December meeting.

Janet Morris will be meeting with the mayor on Nov 15 and hopefully will be on the City Council agenda Nov 25 with a second reading on Dec 9 and sworn in before the end of the year.

**Follow-up on Public Tree Removal Process:**

**ST** will resend the 3 documents (Tree Removal Hearing Process, Application for Tree Removal and the bullet point description of the Tree Removal Hearing Process) to **JT** to be posted on the Tree Commission website.

**New Business****FY 2020 Free Cash Proposal and FY 2021 Budget**

**PB** will prepare a shell for both the *FY 20 Free Cash Proposal* and *FY 21 Budget* and send them to **CM** to complete. The Commission will discuss them in the December meeting.

**Madagascar Report by Cris Miller**

**CM** shared some of what he learned on his recent trip to Madagascar. Travel is difficult: it took 4 hours to go 50 miles in 4-wheel drive. Only 15% of Madagascar's original forest is left. Huge swathes of native forest have been felled, and the invasive eucalyptus has filled in, with devastating consequences. **CM** participated in a reforestation program which is removing the invasive trees and replanting with native species.

The meeting adjourned at 7:04 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sheila Taintor, Secretary

**Next meeting:** Wednesday, 11 December, 2019 at 6 PM

**Location:** Department of Public Services, 16A Perry Way