

Newburyport Tree Commission

April 20, 2017

Director's Room

Newburyport Public Library

Meeting Convened at 7:05 PM.

Tree Commission members (TC) present: David Dylewski (**DD**), Paul Bevilacqua (Secretary) (**PB**), Jane Niebling (**JN**), Sheila Taintor (**ST**), Kim Kudym (**KK**)

Members Absent: Constance Preston (Treasurer) (**CP**); Crispin Miller (Chair) (**CM**), Wayne Amaral, Tree Warden and Deputy Director/Director of Operations Department of Public Services, ex-officio (**WA**)

Open time for Residents

No residents attended

Commission Membership

DD chaired the meeting in the absence of **CM**. He noted that Byron Getchell (**BG**) had submitted his resignation to the Mayor. The members of the **TC** unanimously expressed their thanks to Byron for all of his work in supporting and leading activities of the **TC**, especially in regard to siting, planting and maintaining trees. His contribution will be missed. **KK** noted that she planned to ask the Mayor to appoint her to the vacancy. If that occurs, there will be a vacancy for an Alternate. The members present expressed confidence in **KK** and the work that she has done since, as well as prior to, being appointed a **TC** Alternate.

Report of the Secretary

The Minutes of the March 9, meeting were reviewed and unanimously approved with a few restatements and clarifications.

Report of the Treasurer

The Treasurer was not present, but she submitted her report in advance. **DD** led discussion of the report which was accepted. There were a number of questions which will be addressed when **CM** and **CP** are present at the May meeting.

Report of the Tree Warden:

April 20, 2017

1. Tree Removed in 2017.

- The most recent trees are;

- Bartlett Dr #2
- Beacon Ave #14
- Chestnut St #25
- Elmira Ave #5
- Erie Ave #5
- Kent St #12
- Magnolia St #11
- Olive St #8
- Prospect St #102
- Toppans Lane #45

The total number of trees removed to date in 2017 is 46.

- 0 Non-High Hazard trees have been removed.

2. Tree watering contract has been signed.
3. Tree planting contract has been signed.
4. Working with Tree Commission on inventory collection and database.
5. Spring tree planting sites have been dig-safed and should be ready for inspection by April 24th.

Reports

Tree Regulations/ Tree Plan

PB noted that there has been no activity to report. **PB** will contact **WA** to determine whether **WA** believes that there are any changes needed. Those members present did not have any suggestions for changes.

Planting and Pruning

High Street Project (merged with Gateway I): DD confirmed that a contract has been awarded by DPS to Plants and Pleasantrees for up to \$3,700 to plant up to 33 trees. Dig safe was to complete inspection of the selected sites on April 20. There will be twenty trees planted on High Street and 18 for the Spring planting. North East Nursery was awarded the contract to supply up to 38 trees. It was decided, based upon the objection of a homeowner, to not plant one of the scheduled trees on Oak Street.

Spring 2017 Planting: DD reported that the total number of trees to be planted is 38. Six trees will be planted by volunteers.

Fall 2017 Planting: Based upon the report by **CM** at the March 9 meeting that the Budget and Finance Committee of the Newburyport City Council approved the \$10,000 in free cash to plant trees in the Fall. **DD** has moved forward with the planning to plant up to 30. Sites will be determined.

Nock School: This project is in the process of being reactivated. **CP** was appointed the project manager by **CM**. The project is in the initial stages as meetings need to be held with school officials and others to determine the project scope. At this point the involvement of the **TC** is to provide expertise on a consulting basis.

Watering: DD reported that 115 trees will be watered from May 15-September 15. The dates could be modified depending upon weather conditions, primarily the amount of rain. In 2016 the watering period was extended due to the drought. The area is still in drought conditions as the drought period has extended for at least three years. Several inches of water remain to be made up.

Pruning Days: DD reminded everyone that April 22 and April 29 are the annual pruning and mulching days from 9AM-12PM. The group, including community volunteers, will meet in the NPL parking lot to begin at 9.

Consistent with past practice, the **TC** voted to use **TC** funds to reimburse those who had volunteered to contract for the rental of vehicles for project activities, using personal funds. **KK** recused herself from the otherwise unanimous vote.

Grants: JN has remained in contact with FoNT. She reported that it is her understanding that **FoNT** is considering a variety of grant opportunities and will collaborate with the **TC** as appropriate.

JN will attend the May 9 CPC meeting when proposals will be presented. The **TC** submitted a proposal for \$12,000 to plant trees on High Street. Members were invited to attend. **JN**, as agreed, has continued to seek to identify funding sources to help to support the Tree Inventory Project.

Community Outreach

KK reported that a new volunteer for FoNT will be leading the first of what is hoped to become an annual Arbor Day event. This year's activities will focus on preschoolers and be held at the Atkinson Common at 10AM on Friday, April 28, 2018. Mayor Holaday accepted the invitation to attend and read the proclamation.

KK also announced that FoNT and **TC** volunteers will attend the Earth Day Coffeehouse at the Methodist Church on Friday April 21 in Newburyport to describe the functions of both the **TC** and FoNT.

ST noted the inclusion of the Tree Commission Pruning and Mulching Days (4/22, 4/29) in the Greater Newburyport *Earth Day Weekend Activities ... and more* calendar. In addition, the calendar lists the FoNT Arbor Day activities.

Old Business

TC Master Plan Revision Suggestions

ST also raised a concern that the version of the Draft 2016 Master Plan posted on the City website still does not include the Tree Commission input. We want our comments considered in the Master Plan which the City Council votes to approve. **KK** said she would contact the Planning Office to determine the status of the comments submitted by the **TC**.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM

Respectfully Submitted, Paul M. Bevilacqua, Secretary

Next meeting: Thursday May11, 2017 at 7 PM

Location: Children's Activity Room, Newburyport Public Library