

Newburyport Tree Commission

November 9, 2017

Children's Activity Room

Newburyport Public Library

Meeting Convened at 7:06 PM.

Tree Commission members (TC) present: Crispin Miller (Chair) (**CM**), Constance Preston (Treasurer) (**CP**), Kim Kudym (**KK**), Paul Bevilacqua (Secretary) (**PB**), Jane Niebling (**JN**), Wayne Amaral, Tree Warden and Deputy Director/Director of Operations Department of Public Services, ex-officio (**WA**)

Absent: David Dylewski (**DD**), Sheila Taintor (**ST**)

Others Present: S. Pellegrini FoNT, R. Germinara

Open time for Residents

R. Germinara said that he had a general interest in trees and their impact on the City. He raised a specific concern about a street tree on Merrimac Street. After discussion **WA** and he agreed to speak further at the conclusion of the meeting. He noted that he planned to remain for the entire meeting as he was interested in learning more about the work of the **TC** and its projects.

Reports

Secretary

The Minutes of the October 12 meeting were reviewed and unanimously approved.

Treasurer

The Financial Report for October was reviewed and accepted. **CP** and **CM** noted that they have been reviewing with **WA** various old accounts to identify small amounts of unspent money that can be used to purchase and care for trees. This effort has been time consuming but has yielded some unanticipated funds.

Tree Warden:

TREE WARDEN REPORT

November 9, 2017

1. Trees Removed in 2017

Year-to-date total: 92

The most recent trees are:

- Congress Street #10
- Merrimac Street #308
- 0 Non-High Hazard trees have been removed.

We had about 12-15 public trees fall during the ice storm. Final numbers and evaluations will be completed and reported at the next committee meeting in December.

WA observed that there is reason to believe that the recent severe wind and rain storm which downed a significant number of trees throughout the region, and caused a loss of power in most surrounding communities had had far less impact on Newburyport. He

attributed that in part as an indicator of the success of the initiative which had been undertaken to remove a large number of hazard trees in the last two years.

2. Preparing a city council free cash request for \$20,000 for yearly EAB treatment for Ash trees.

Reports

Planting and Pruning

DD was not able to attend. He will report at the December 14 meeting.

CM noted that over 50% of the persons on High Street who had been notified that the **TC** would like to plant a tree in front of their home have agreed. For various reasons smaller percentage have requested that a tree not be planted in front of their home

Nock/Molin School: CP reported that the cooperative planning and planting with school staff, school volunteers and DPS staff, is moving along well. **TC members continue to** support this project by providing the expertise. This project is not supported financially by the **TC**.

Donations

Stephanie Pellegrini, of FoNT, who is working on development of a tree donation program, presented an update of the project, including the current draft design of what is being called the Recognition Tree which will have 10” leaves with the name of individuals who have been recognized by the donation of one or more trees. Current plans call for the Recognition Tree to be placed on the east side of the Rail Trail where it passes under High Street. Stephanie hopes that the Tree will be in place by late Spring, subject to being reviewed and approved by the various departments and individuals involved in the approval process.

The Tree will be a gift to the City from the contributors to FoNT who are paying for the trees and their maintenance for a period of time. Stephanie will report on developments at the December 14 meeting of the **TC**. The **TC** unanimously endorsed the conceptual design and location of the Recognition Tree.

Grants

JN reported that a proposal requiring a \$13,000 of matching funds of cash or equivalent volunteer hours) which the **TC** had previously supported, the Massachusetts Division of Con which the **TC** has been submitted to the Massachusetts Division of Conservation and Recreation. If approved, the grant will fund hiring two fulltime persons to work on the Tree Inventory in the summer of 2018. The **TC** unanimously supported authorizing the funds.

The **TC** unanimously authorized **JN** to develop and submit grants to various other sources to gain additional funds to support the planting and care of trees.

Education

ST was not able to attend. She will report at the December 14 meeting.

Community Outreach

KK reported that **CP** submitted an article to the Daily News for the Tree Talk column that was published in November, covering the Nock/Molin tree planting project. **KK** posted a blog entry in Branching Out in Newburyport about the **TC** tree inventory efforts. It received over 700 hits the first couple of weeks. She will work with **DD** for the next Daily News column to report on misconceptions that may affect homeowners' willingness to have street trees planted in front of their homes.

Tree Inventory

CM reported that the Tree Inventory is moving ahead well. To date over 2059 trees have been inventoried and involving 449 hours of volunteer time. Over five teams of two/three persons continue to work on this project.

The meeting adjourned at 8: 07 PM

Respectfully Submitted, Paul M. Bevilacqua, Secretary

Next meeting: Thursday December 14, 2017 at 7 PM

Location: Children's Activity Room, Newburyport Public Library