

## **Newburyport Tree Commission**

December 14, 2017

Children's Activity Room

Newburyport Public Library

### **Meeting Convened at 7:05 PM.**

**Tree Commission members (TC) present:** Crispin Miller (Chair) (**CM**), Constance Preston (Treasurer) (**CP**), David Dylewski (**DD**), Paul Bevilacqua (Secretary) (**PB**), Kim Kudym (**KK**), Sheila Taintor (**ST**)

**Absent:** Wayne Amaral, Tree Warden and Deputy Director/Director of Operations Department of Public Services, ex-officio (**WA**), Jane Niebling (**JN**)

### **Open time for Residents**

No residents were present.

### **Reports**

#### **Secretary**

The Minutes of the November 9 meeting were reviewed and unanimously approved.

#### **Treasurer**

The Financial Report for November was accepted. Additionally, the **TC** unanimously confirmed the approval of the purchase of additional gator bags. **CM** had identified an excellent vendor who had them available for \$11.50 a piece. **CP** was authorized to purchase at least 36 new bags

#### **Tree Warden:**

Trees Removed in 2017

Year-to-date total: 111

The most recent trees are:

- Arlington St #11
- Ashland St #34
- Chapel St #7
- Chapel St #19 (10/31/17 Wind Storm)
- Crow Lane #138
- Daniel Lucy Way #16 (10/31/17 Wind Storm)
- Fair St #9
- Hancock St #28
- Laurel Rd #13
- Lime St #93 (2 trees)
- Orange St #18
- Payson St #17
- Pond St @ Bartlett Mall
- Pond St opposite #47
- Roosevelt Pl #18 (10/31/17 Wind Storm)
- Tyng St @ #264 High St
- Upland Rd #4

0 Non-High Hazard trees have been removed.

## **Planting and Pruning**

### **Recap of 2017 Planting Season**

**Spring/Fall 2017 Planting:** DD reported that 75 trees were planted on High Street and various other community locations. This included at least 17 tree species, including some which are native.

**Watering:** DD reported success with 122 trees which were watered from the week of May 15 to the week of September 15. All trees planted by the TC in the last two years are in good condition. Only three trees planted for/five years have been lost. The RFP for the 2018 watering contract has been advertised.

**Pruning and Mulching:** DD reported that the two days of mulching and pruning by Commissioners and other volunteers was once again very successful with 175 trees as evidenced by the success rate with the growth of trees planted over the past four/five years.

**Spring Planting 2018:** DD reported that 77 trees will be planted in the Spring. These plantings will include 21 different species, including 24 native trees. Sites have been specifically identified for the Spring. Over 100 sites are under consideration for the Fall 2018 in FY 2019. The RFP for Spring 2018 will be out to bid by the end of December.

**Watering 2018:** DD reported that the RFP for the 2018 watering contract has been advertised.

**Fall 2019 Planting:** DD reported that at this point the 25 American Elms, paid for last year, will be available to plant.

**Planting and Pruning Leadership:** DD announced that effective at the end of 2017 he will no longer be the coordinator and planner Planting and Pruning. DD explained that he had done it for over four years and believed that someone with new ideas should have an opportunity to be involved at the leadership level of this activity. CM discussed this role with DD and CP, and CP agreed to assume the responsibility in January 2018, with the ongoing support of TC members.

### **Grants/Donations**

JN notified that Commission that she could not attend the meeting. She sent a report indicating that she had submitted the Tree City application, previously approved by the TC, to the DCR on December 11. She cannot work on, or even see, the Tree Growth application until approval is received. She reported that approval is not necessarily acceptance from the Tree City US. Once approval is received she will be able to access the portal.

Stephanie Pellegrini, of FoNT, was not able to attend. She is working in cooperation with JN on the tree donation program. CM did report that the Parks Commission has approved the design and the location of the Dedication Tree on the Rail Trail between High and Washington Streets.

CM Reported that he identified the Cutler Trust, a city managed fund, which could be a source of funds for the purchase and care of tree. The TC authorized submitting a proposal to the Cutler Trust.

## **Education**

**ST** reported that she had contacted 5<sup>th</sup> grade teachers at all eligible schools in Newburyport for the Annul Massachusetts Conservation and Recreation's Arbor Day Poster Contest about the contest: the Moulin School, River Valley Charter School and Immaculate Conception. This year's theme is "My Community, My Trees". Individual schools hold their own poster contest, select their winning poster and submit it to the DCR. Prizes include a tree planted on the grounds of the winner's school, a certificate for art supplies, and many other prizes. The winner's teacher will also receive prizes that include educational materials that will support continued learning about forests and natural resource conservation. **ST** will be meeting with 5<sup>th</sup> grade teachers in January to discuss logistics.

Homeschoolers may also submit their posters individually to the Poster Contest, so **ST** plans to reach out to the Daily News to publish information about the Contest for them.

## **Community Outreach**

**KK** reported that she submitted a Tree Talk article for the Daily News, which was to be printed in a Monday edition in November. For some reason it was not, although it did appear in an on-line edition only. Richard Lodge was looking into the matter and stated that he is very much interested in continuing the monthly column. *(Subsequent to the meeting KK was notified that a revised and updated version of Tree Talk submission that did not get printed in November will be printed on Tuesday, December 26.)* **KK** is also preparing another piece for submission as soon as possible. In the meantime, **KK** submitted the article about tree inventory to the Newburyport Current but it was not published.

## **Old Business**

### **Door Hangers**

**ST** distributed to Commission members the 2 door hangers approved at the October meeting, one to be used on planting day and the other at the beginning of year 3 when the **TC** is no longer watering the street tree. The Commissioners were pleased with both.

**ST** also showed the Commissioners a copy of the gator bag tag along with photos of a NYC tag used on new trees, and asked them to consider further what we want on our gator bag tag and whether we want a 2-sided tag, before we approve it. She discussed quotes from Staple and Harborprint.

### **Contractor Recognition**

At the November **DD**'s proposed to thank the excellent contractors with whom the **TC** has worked with both the watering and planting programs. He noted that the contractors had consistently demonstrated knowledge, passion, and commitment. The proposal was adopted unanimously in November. **DD**, with some assistance from **CP**, arranged to have cards created and produced

which, after they were signed by TC members were to be mailed to contractors and various other individuals who have supported the efforts of the TC.

### **Purchase of Gator Bags**

CM noted the need to purchase additional gator bags for the Spring 2018 planting. The number needed is to be finalized. In order to expedite the process the TC voted unanimously to authorize CM to purchase additional bags as needed. The account to be charged is to be determined.

### **Tree Inventory**

CM reported that the Tree Inventory is moving ahead well. All members of the TC have volunteered to be involved along with other community volunteers. To date approximately 2061 trees have been inventoried and nearly 459 hours of volunteer time have been involved. Over five teams of two/three persons worked on this project.

### **New Business**

#### **FY 18 Free Cash Proposal**

The TC voted unanimously to submit a request for \$14,950 to purchase, plant and care for 23 trees in the Spring 2018.

#### **FY 19 Budget Request**

The TC voted unanimously to submit a request for \$26,000.

The meeting adjourned at 8:16 PM

Respectfully Submitted, Paul M. Bevilacqua, Secretary

**Next meeting:** Thursday January 11, 2018 at 7 PM

**Location:** Children's Activity Room, Newburyport Public Library