

Newburyport Tree Commission

January 11, 2018

Children's Activity Room
Newburyport Public Library

Meeting convened at 7:05 pm.

Tree Commission members (TC) present: Crispin Miller (Chair) (**CM**), David Dylewski (**DD**), Kim Kudym (**KK**), Jane Niebling (**JN**), Sheila Taintor (Acting Secretary) (**ST**)

Absent: Paul Bevilacqua (Secretary) (**PB**), Constance Preston (Treasurer) (**CP**), Wayne Amaral, Tree Warden and Deputy Director/Director of Operations Department of Public Services, ex-officio (**WA**)

Open time for Residents

Kate Dardinski (8 Kent Street), a new member of FoNT, introduced herself to the Commissioners.

Reports

Secretary

The Minutes of the 14 December meeting were reviewed and unanimously approved.

Treasurer

The Financial Report for December was unanimously accepted.

CM mentioned that he had spoken at the Budget and Finance meeting earlier this evening. The Budget and Finance Committee approved allocating \$14,950 to the **TC** out of free cash.

Tree Warden

- A total of 111 trees were removed in 2017 and no non-hazard trees were removed this year.
- Will be requesting funds to treat EAB over a 3-year period at an estimated cost of \$16,000 a year.
- Harnch's Way Tree Planting Project – Trees have been removed and the site is ready for spring planting.

Planting and Pruning

DD stated that sufficient sites for the Spring 2018 planting have been identified. They will need to be checked and approved by the Tree Warden and DigSafe.

The Commission discussed the bids received (1) to purchase, (2) to plant and (3) to water the Spring 2018 trees.

Spring 2018 Tree Purchase

Three bids were received for 78 trees to be planted in the spring: from Bigelow, a local MA grower, and 2 retail nurseries, Northeast Nurseries and Corliss. The bids ranged from ~\$14,900 to ~\$32,300. The Commission voted to purchase the trees, at a price not to exceed \$22,000.

Spring 2018 Planting

The Commission received 2 bids for planting the trees in Spring 2018: from Plants and Pleasantrees and SLS Landscape Design and Development. The bids ranged from ~\$10,120 to ~\$17,890. The Commission voted unanimously to award the contract to Plants and Pleasantrees.

Spring/Summer 2018 Watering

The Commission received 3 bids to water the trees in the 2018 growing season. The TC voted unanimously to award the contract to Lady Tracey Ann Inc. at the cost of \$8 per tree per watering.

Grants/Donations

JN listed the organizations that she will approach for grants for this coming year: CPC, the Bromfield Trust, the Cutter Trust, the Gayden W. Morrill Foundation and the New England Grassroots Environment Fund. She is still waiting to hear from the MA DCR.

Education

ST updated the Commission on the 2018 Arbor Day Poster Contest for 5th graders sponsored by the MA DCR. She will be meeting with the teachers at the RVCS on 1/22, and is still trying to schedule meetings with teachers at the Moulin and Immaculate Conception schools. She contacted the Daily News about an article which will hopefully reach the home-schooled students.

Community Outreach

KK stated that the Daily News had only printed one half of the article she had submitted in November on December 26, so the other half will be printed later. She expects the poem *The Elm of the Old Morss House* written by E.A.W., which was published in the Newburyport Herald in 1951, discovered by Linda Harding (LH), and transcribed by LH and herself, will appear soon in the Daily News (*subsequently published on 1/13*).

Inventory

An update of MIMAP is scheduled to be released this spring.

This summer the TC will inventory specific areas such as cemeteries.

No Old Business

New Business

Esthetics of Tree Planting

The **TC** discussed the state of trees planted on Newburyport streets. There was general agreement that trees planted recently have been planted suitably to enhance the City's streets, but there have been trees planted inappropriately, that are either too close to other trees, the wrong tree for the place where they were planted, or trees that have not survived the rigors of street life well. The **TC** will start a list of these unhealthy and/or unsightly trees, with the intent of removing them when appropriate.

Tree Nursery

This spring the **TC** will plan to transplant trees originally planted as whips in the Tree Nursery at the Yard Waste Facility off of Colby Farm Lane in 2014.

Speakers at Tree Commission meetings

CM proposed beginning occasional Tree Commission meetings with a half hour educational presentation. The **TC** would invite speakers to discuss specific topics of interest to the **TC** and tree lovers for 15-20 minutes followed by a 10-15 minute Q&A period. Presenters could include experts on a given topic or other City boards which deal with trees. The **TC** would publicize these presentations in the hope of attracting a public audience, which might include future **TC** volunteers.

The Commission voted to invite Javier Marin, Forest Pest Outreach Coordinator, Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources to speak on the Emerald Ash Borer in February. The session will be advertised so all interested parties can attend.

Other suggested topics included National Grid's plans for Newburyport, the Planning Board process, disease and pest identification and control, and tree selection – species and location.

Election of Officers. The Commission elected Crispin Miller as Chair for 2018, and voted to appoint Connie Preston as Treasurer and Sheila Taintor as Secretary.

Because the candidate for Vice Chair was absent, that election will take place during the February meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Sheila Taintor, Secretary

Next meeting: Thursday February 8, 2018 at 7 PM

Location: Children's Activity Room, Newburyport Public Library