



*City of Newburyport Tree Commission*  
**Newburyport Tree Commission**

April 12, 2018

Children's Activity Room  
Newburyport Public Library

Meeting convened at 7:00 pm.

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

**Public in attendance:**

Lisë Reid, Newburyport Parks Director  
Mike Hennessey, Newburyport Parks Manager

*Shady Tree Talk #2* 7:00-7:30 Lisë Reid & Mike Hennessey, Newburyport  
Topic: Shady Business in the Parks

**MH** stated that people involved with trees are in the "legacy business". He shared a very inspirational photo of a magnificent copper beech he planted in Atkinson Common when his daughter Corinne was 5 months old in her honor. The photo is of the two of them in front of (under!) the tree on her 21st birthday.

Since becoming Parks Manager, **MH** has started applying rings of free City compost at the base of park trees. The DPS takes sewer sludge to the plant in Ipswich and brings back compost. He has hired Bartlett Trees to spray for winter and gypsy moths only in Atkinson Common.

He briefly updated the Commission on what is being done at the following parks: Atkinson, Moseley Pines, Bartlett Mall, the Rail Trail phase 2, Cashman and Cushing.

**Reports**

**Secretary**

Because our March meeting had been cancelled due to a blizzard, the Commission reviewed and approved the Minutes of the 8 February meeting.

**Treasurer**

The February Treasurer's Report was unanimously accepted.

**Tree Warden (March and April reports combined)**

A total of 31 Street Trees have been removed in 2018.

The most recent tree removals are:

- |                                      |                   |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| ▪ Curzon Mill Rd #63 (3 trees total) | ▪ Franklin St #46 |
| ▪ Everett Dr #23 (2 trees total)     | ▪ Munroe St #9A   |

- Pine Hill Rd #41
- Pond St #47
- State St #109
- Turkey Hill Rd (3 trees total)
- Cushing Ave #199 on Harding Street
- Ferry Road #33
- Hill Street #33-35 (2 trees total)
- Liberty St #38
- Munroe St #29
- Plummer Ave #19 (2 trees total)
- Rawson Ave #19

1. **WA** requested funds to treat EAB over a 3-year period @ an estimated cost of \$16,000 a year. Funding should be determined by May.
2. **WA** met with **CM** and **CP** to review contracts.
3. **WA** marked over 100 tree locations with **DD** and **CP** for the 2018 Spring Planting Project.
4. **WA** updated the Commission on the \$1.6 million Safe Routes to Schools project for High Street between Toppans Lane and Johnson Street. The MA DOT will be meeting again with City officials to finalize suggested changes to the proposal, followed by a public meeting sometime this spring. The City will then send out the bid for a contractor and construction is expected to be started by the fall or next spring. Bumpouts are being added which will prove wonderful for trees, since there will be no wires overhead. Once the plan has been approved, **WA** will share it with the Tree Commission so that we can incorporate trees into the plan. There will be no state or municipal funds available for the trees. It will be up to the TC to fund the purchase, planting and care of the trees.

## **Planting and Pruning**

### Spring Planting 2018:

- 104 Total trees will be planted
  - ✓ 52 High St Project (25 from free cash distribution)
  - ✓ 16 Community planting
  - ✓ 16 Green St extension
  - ✓ 14 on Frontgate project
  - ✓ 4 FoNT Adopt-A-Tree
  - ✓ 2 need to be determined (London Plane Sycamore & Kwanzan Cherry)
- All trees have been ordered from the nurseries (Northeast Nursery & Bigelow Nurseries)
- Plants & Pleasantrees will plant all 104 trees
- Lady Tracey Anne will water all the trees
- Bigelow Nurseries' trees will be delivered April 27 and stored at Colby Farm Lane
- Dave Carvill (Plants and Pleasantrees) will pick up the Northeast Nursery's trees in Peabody as he plants them.
- All 104 planting sites have been determined and marked
- 24 sites remain to be dig-safe determined

### Spring 2018 Weeding, Pruning and Mulching Days:

**CP** thanked **DD** for his work organizing our 2 spring Saturday mornings for maintenance on our newly planted trees: April 21 and May 5 from 9 AM to 12 PM. There will be 9 volunteers each day, requiring the rental of a 3rd truck again this year. This year along with pruning and mulching, the Commission will be weeding each tree pit prior to placing mulch on the tree pits.

### **Grants/Donations**

**JN** submitted an addendum to the High Street grant application to the CPC and a new grant for an “edible avenue” on Rail Trail Phase 2.

**JN** is heartened by the uptick in Adopt-A-Tree. As this program becomes more well known, there will be even more people participating.

Tyng Street is being considered as a next-step project area for Adopt-A-Tree. Neighbors will be asked for donations to beautify the block they live on. This is a pilot program which can then be extended to other streets and neighborhoods, selecting areas which are slated for street and sidewalk improvements. **PB** suggested formally informing the Ward Counselor, and ccing the Council President and the Mayor, as a regular part of our procedure, in addition to inviting the ward councilor on a site walk.

We are still waiting to hear from **MA DCR** about our grant to subsidize inventory interns for this coming growing season.

### **Education**

**ST** reported that the Molin, River Valley Charter and Immaculate Conception Schools all participated in the 2018 Annual Arbor Day Contest sponsored by the **MA DCR**. Each school sent its winning poster to the **DCR** to be judged at the state level. Almost 50 students participated in the Contest this first year of Newburyport involvement. **ST** thanked **KK** for her wonderful DN article and blog post about the Molin student posters and **JN** for her invaluable help hanging the exhibit at the Senior/Community Center, where they will be on display through the end of the month.

### **Community Outreach**

**KK** reported on her DN article and very popular blog entry about the 2018 Arbor Day Poster Contest at the Molin School. Her blog entry attracted an unheard of 800+ hits in several weeks.

### **Inventory**

Although we have not heard back from the **MA DCR** about requested funding for inventory interns, the Commission will continue its inventory this growing season, finishing the streets we did not get to last year, and starting to inventory trees in cemeteries, City-owned housing projects, Senior Center and parking lots. We will be using Version 2 of the tree inventory software developed by the Merrimack Valley Planning Commission (MVPC) which is similar to the version used last year and will be easy to manage.

## **Old Business**

### **Shady News Series**

The Commission enjoyed the first two presentations and decided to go ahead with the Shady News Talks Series. **ST** requested that Commissioners share ideas for future presentations they would be interested in with her.

### **Gator Bag Tag**

The Tree Commission authorized **ST** to have Harborside Printing Company make up to 250 2-sided gator bag tags to be used this spring when the bags are installed on new and 2<sup>nd</sup> year trees.

### **Annual Report FY 2017**

The Annual Report for FY 2017 was mailed to the Mayor on May 4.

### **Tree Commission Documents**

**PB** has agreed to be the official Tree Commission archivist. He is starting the process of deciding which documents what we want/need to keep, in what form we want them, and where we will keep them. He will be checking with other City departments to see how they go about this and anticipates that the process will be established within one year.

### **Website**

**CM** suggested discussing updating our website with volunteer Kate Dardinski.

## **New Business**

### **Annual Report FY 2018**

The Interim Annual Report FY 2018 was approved by the Commission. It will be updated at the end of the month and submitted to the Mayor. The final Annual Report FY 2018 will be submitted at the conclusion of the fiscal year, and then posted on the website.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM

Respectfully Submitted,  
Sheila Taintor, Secretary

**Next meeting:** Thursday May 10, 2018 at 7 PM

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