



City of Newburyport Tree Commission

Meeting Minutes

May 10, 2018

Children's Activity Room
Newburyport Public Library

Meeting convened at 7:03 pm.

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

Tree Commission members absent: David Dylewski (**DD**), Wayne Amaral, Tree Warden and Deputy Director/Director of Operations, Department of Public Services, ex-officio (**WA**)

Public in attendance: Stephen Moore

Shady News Talk #3

7:00-7:25 Stephen Moore, Vice-Chair, Newburyport Conservation Commission
Topic: *50 Shades of Green*

Stephen Moore explained that the sole concern of the Conservation Commission is the protection of wetlands. He mentioned an irate resident who had protested the installation of the wind turbine on the Mark Richie Woodworking property at a ConComm hearing because of the impact the turbine would have on birds, not understanding that this problem did not fall within the purview of the Conservation Commission.

The Conservation Commission encourages tree planting in the Industrial Park and has a list of recommended trees to withstand wet soils, including red maples and willows. A lively Q&A session followed regarding the set up and workings of the CC. No follow up action is planned except **SM** will ask Julia Godfredsen, the Conservation Administrator, to send the **TC** the list of trees tolerant of wet sites.

Reports

Secretary

The Commission approved the Minutes of the 12 April, 2018 Meeting unanimously.

Treasurer

The April Treasurer's Report was unanimously accepted.



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Tree Warden

Total Street Trees Removed in 2018 is 32.

Most recent tree removal is: Warren Street #29

1. **WA** is still waiting on Council approval regarding the funds to treat EAB over a 3-year period. An estimated cost of \$16,000 a year. Funding should be determined by May.
2. City wide planting is underway and includes planting 18 donated trees at the Nock School next week.

Planting and Pruning

Spring Planting 2018:

CP reported that:

- 105 Total trees will be planted
 - ✓ 54 High St Project (25 from free cash distribution)
 - ✓ 17 Community planting
 - ✓ 16 Green St extension
 - ✓ 14 on Frontgate project
 - ✓ 4 FoNT Adopt-A-Tree
- All 105 planting sites have been determined, marked and dig safe approved
- Bigelow Nurseries trees were delivered April 27, stored at Colby Farm Lane and 20 have been planted. The remaining 8 (which require tree pits dug in concrete) will be planted when the city crew is available.
- Plants & Pleasantrees is planting all 105 trees, plus the Nock School trees
- Lady Tracey Anne will water all the trees
- Frontgate (Famous Pizza) trees will be next, followed by High St completion and then community trees

CM stated that he and **DD** have put the gator bags with the new tags on the 20 trees which have been planted and added them to the inventory. **CP** left door hangers at the residences for these trees.

There was discussion about whether the **TC** should consider reducing the number of trees planted in the future. Our decision to plant 100+ trees was very ambitious and may not have taken into account how complicated a task it is, dependent on many factors, some of which are beyond our control. **CM** asked the commissioners to think about this for a future conversation so that we can ensure success in what we undertake.

Pruning, Weeding, & Mulching Days

DD was absent but sent in his report about this spring's two Pruning, Weeding and Mulching Days, on April 21 and May 5. There were 9 volunteers working each day, in 3 trucks. We used a



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total of 9 truckloads of wood chips and pruned and applied the mulch around 135 trees. The streets worked on were: High Street, Green Street, Harris, Washington, Marlborough and Storey Ave.

Inventory

CM is in the process of hiring interns to work on the Tree Inventory this summer. All monies paid out of the MA DCR grant must be matched in value by TC inventory-related expenditures or volunteer hours. The intern's work must be carefully monitored and **CM** suggested that the commissioners periodically accompany the interns.

Grants/Donations

JN reported that the Tree Commission has been awarded the following 3 grants:

- Bromfield Trust, \$12,000 for the purchase and care of 20 trees;
- Cutter Trust, \$6,000 for the for the purchase and care of 10 trees;
- MA DCR, \$13,000 in matching value for the inventory.

We have not yet received word from the CPC about the 3 proposals submitted to them:

- \$12,800 for planting and caring for 20 trees on High Street;
- A CPC Addendum for \$23,000 to complete High Street; or
- \$7,600 for the Edible Avenue proposal for planting edible trees and bushes with signage along phase 2 of the Rail Trail.

Education

ST reported on post Arbor Day Contest follow-up with the Molin School. She met with the Molin art teacher at the Senior/Community Center while the exhibit was still up, to discuss next year's exhibit.

Community Outreach

KK reported that her DN article about the April Shady Tree Talk with the Newburyport Parks Director and Manager had been printed. In addition, there was a page 1 photo of a crew of Commission volunteers mulching and pruning on High Street on April 21.

Old Business

Tree Commission Documents

PB met with City Clerk Richard Jones on May 1 to get a better understanding of what materials produced by the Tree Commission need to be retained and their form and location. The City Clerk is the keeper of records for the City. Richard explained that if the TC is currently placing the materials listed on the City website, the materials will be retained and backed up by the City



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for the appropriate period of time. The TC may, if it wishes, retain these reports independently if it wishes, but it is not required or expected to do so.

Tree Commission Documents on the City Website include:

Meeting Agendas

Meeting Minutes

Annual Reports to the Mayor

Tree Plan

Street Tree Ordinance

Meeting and Operational Guidelines

List of Invasive Trees

List of Recommended Trees

Get-a-Tree Program

Interim Annual Report FY 2018

CM reported that the Interim Annual Report FY 2018 was submitted to the Mayor. The Final Annual Report for the year will be updated with the spring planting numbers and sent to the Mayor on July 15.

New Business

There was no new business.

The meeting adjourned at 8:43 PM Children's Activity Room time, 8:48 real time.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sheila Taintor, Secretary

Next meeting: Thursday June 14, 2018 at 7 PM

Location: Children's Activity Room, Newburyport Public Library