



## *City of Newburyport Tree Commission*

### **Meeting Minutes**

14 June, 2018

Third Floor Conference Room  
Newburyport Public Library

Meeting convened at 7:12 pm.

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

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

There was no public in attendance.

### **Reports**

#### **Secretary**

The Minutes of the May 10, 2018 Meeting were unanimously approved.

#### **Treasurer**

The Commission unanimously accepted the May Treasurer's Report.

#### **Tree Warden**

Total Street Trees Removed in 2018 is 40.

Most recent tree removals are:

- Daniel Lucy #20 (storm)
- Warren Street #35
- Tilton Street #12 (storm)
- Dove Street #22
- Toppan Lane #34 (storm)
- Maple Street #20 (2 trees)
- Tyng Street #48

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 June.

#### **Inventory**

**KH** has undertaken the substantial job of managing the reporting procedure for matching hours/expenditures for the MA DCR Urban and Community Forestry Challenge Grant for summer intern(s) to continue our tree inventory. The grant runs from 6/5/18 through 6/30/19.



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Each week **TC** members will send **KH** their numbers for inventorying: trees inventoried, hours worked, and mileage; or any other covered task they do. **KH** will enter the numbers on the master form which will be submitted to the MA DCR.

The number of trees inventoried should be split, if 2 people (i.e. intern and TC member) are working together. Mileage (even if cycling!) and hours worked (which include the time one leaves home though his/her return) are eligible but non-reimbursable expenses that can be applied towards our Match. If anyone has a question about whether an expense is eligible, reimbursable or not reimbursable but can be applied to our match, please check with either **KH** or **CM**.

### **Spring Planting 2018:**

104 Total trees were planted, as of 13 June, 2018, with water bags put in place and door hangers dropped off.

- 53 High St Project (25 from free cash distribution)
- 17 Community planting
- 16 Green St. extension
- 14 Frontgate project
- 4 FoNT Adopt-A-Tree

Lady Tracey Anne is watering about 250 trees for 2018 growing season.

### **Fall Planting 2018:**

- Currently working on scheduling the fall planting walk through
- List currently at 34 which includes only requests from residents

### **Grants/Donations**

**JN** reported that she has no current updates. The Tyng Street project has been moved to Spring 2019. **JN** is mulling the idea of applying for a grant to dig up and relocate 4 chestnut trees which were planted on phase 1 of the Clipper City Rail Trail at Battis Grove. The trees are not thriving where they are and she would like to move one to the Edible Avenue garden on phase 2 on the rail trail and the other three to the grounds of the Nock/Molin Schools.

### **Education**

**ST** reported that the Molin fifth grade teachers are interested in having Tree Commissioners present the *2019 Arbor Day Poster Contest* to each fifth-grade classroom next year.

### **Community Outreach**

**KK** reported that she has submitted an article on the do's and don'ts of mulching, written by Jean Berger and edited by **ST**, to the Daily News. She is planning to write another article on the 6/15 official dedication at the Nock Middle School in honor of the Horse Chestnut Tree.



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**CP** reported that she has been contacted by Joe DiBiase of the Local Pulse, who is interested in interviewing Tree Commission members on an upcoming show.

### **Old Business**

There was no old business.

### **New Business**

#### **Possibility of Tree Nursery**

**CM** shared that John Elwell, of Maple Crest Farm in West Newbury, has generously offered the Tree Commission a parcel of land to be leased at an undetermined cost for the purpose of establishing a City tree nursery. There was discussion about the substantial expenses and difficulties that would be involved in such an enterprise for a volunteer board, and the **TC** felt sadly that it had to decline this generous offer.

#### **Limiting Seasonal Plantings**

There was discussion about future tree plantings. This spring proved that planting 104 trees in one season is too large a task for us to undertake. **CP** concurred that not only was it exhausting for her, but the contractors expressed that they would not be interested in bidding for such a massive planting in the future. *Plants & Pleasantrees* felt that 40 trees was its maximum. **CM** suggested that in the future we might split the number of trees to be planted (possibly no more than 75) among 2 contractors.

#### **Recruiting More Volunteers**

Burnout is a serious threat and commissioners felt that the **TC** needs to recruit more volunteers to help us with our work. Suggestions ranged from adding more members to the Tree Commission to recruiting people for very specific tasks.

The idea of having a Tree Commission Retreat in the winter was suggested.

The meeting adjourned at 8:28 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Sheila Taintor, Secretary

**Next meeting:** Thursday, July 12, 2018 at 7 PM

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