



## *City of Newburyport Tree Commission*

### **Meeting Minutes**

July 12, 2018

Children's Activity Room  
Newburyport Public Library

Meeting convened at 7:04 pm.

**Tree Commission members (TC) present:** Crispin Miller (Chair) **(CM)**, Constance Preston (Treasurer) **(CP)**, Sheila Taintor (Secretary) **(ST)**, David Dylewski **(DD)**, Jane Niebling **(JN)**

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

**Public in attendance:** Jeff Esche **(JE)**, 30 Lime Street, executive director of Northeast Urban Forest Advocacy, Inc.

**JE** updated the Commission on the status of the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). It has now extended its presence throughout the whole range of the ash tree in North America.

Preventative treatment for the EAB involves injecting a chemical into ash trees, and is 99% successful. It can even stop the deterioration in an infected tree which is 40% dead.

**JE** encouraged the **TC** to be on the lookout for signs of EABs on ash trees, and to explain the seriousness and signs of EAB presence in conversation with residents.

### **Reports**

#### **Secretary**

The Commission approved the Minutes of the June 14, 2018 Meeting.

#### **Treasurer**

The June Treasurer's Report, the final financial report for FY 2018, was unanimously accepted. **CP** mentioned 4 grants have been completely expended this spring and that the A.G. Cutter Trust grant will be added in FY 2019.

#### **Tree Warden**

Total of street trees removed for 2018 is 40.



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No trees have been removed in the past 30 days.

Ash Tree EAB treatment involves treating ash trees every other year until the EAB is no longer a threat. **WA** had hoped to treat half the City's ash trees every year at \$16,000/year and put in a request for that amount which was not funded. However, he was able to reallocate \$10,000 of existing funds will allow for 1/3 of the trees to be treated this year. Bartlett Tree will perform the injections.

### **Planting**

#### Spring Planting 2018:

104 Total trees were planted, bagged, and tagged by 13 June, 2018. Lady Tracey Anne will be watering 250 trees during the 2018 growing season.

Dropping off door hangers for all of them will be completed within the next several days.

**ST** is leaving the year 3 door hangers at the residences where trees are no longer being watered by the **TC**. She offered to distribute the 2019 year 3 hangers in the spring, prior to planting.

#### Fall Planting 2018:

The fall planting walk-through has taken place. 37 trees, which consist only of trees requested by residents, are scheduled to be planted. Paul Harrington is currently working on bids for purchasing and planting.

### **Grants/Donations**

**JN** reported that she received an email from the CPC stating that they had recommended to the City that they be allowed to fund all the requests they received.

### **Education**

**ST** has reached out to Andrew Soracco, RVCS teacher, to see how we can work with his class next year.

### **Community Outreach**

**CP** reported that she and **CM** appeared on Joe DiBiase's radio program, *The Local Pulse*, talking about city trees on Saturday, 7/7. They were the first interview on the program. Here is a link to the show: <http://www.newburyportnews.com/localpulse/> (episode 209).

### **Inventory**

**CM** reported that two interns, Max Reid and Emily Noonan, have been hired and are working hard on the inventory. **CM** is extremely impressed with their competence and maturity.



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Phase 1 of the inventory (all street trees which have not been previously inventoried) will be completed shortly. Phase 2, which is comprised of trees in schools, athletic fields, cemeteries, public housing and parking lots, will commence once phase 1 is done. **CM** anticipates that we will be reach phase 3 (trees inventoried in 1997, 2003, 2008, 2013 and 2014) this summer.

### **Old Business**

#### **Annual Report FY 2018**

**CM** reported that the Annual Report FY 2018 was submitted to the Mayor who has included it in the Council package for the 7/16 meeting.

### **New Business**

There was no new business.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM

Respectfully Submitted,  
Sheila Taintor, Secretary

**Next meeting:** Thursday, 9 August 2018 at 7 PM

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