



City of Newburyport Tree Commission

Meeting Minutes

9 August, 2018

Children's Activity Room
Newburyport Public Library

Meeting convened at 7:07 pm.

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

Tree Commission members absent: Jane Niebling **(JN)**

Public in attendance: Jane Purinton, 20 Toll Road, Salisbury; Emily Noonan, 47 Milk Street, Newburyport; L. B. Thapa, 138 High Street, Apt. 6, Newburyport

CM introduced Emily Noonan to the **TC**. Emily is one of our 2 interns this summer inventorying public trees in Newburyport. Unfortunately, the second intern, Max Reid, is recovering from bald faced hornet stings and was not able to attend.

Reports

Secretary

The Minutes of the July 12, 2018 Meeting were approved.

Treasurer

The Commission accepted the July Treasurer's Report.

Tree Warden

Total Street Trees removed in 2018 is 62.

The most recent tree removals are:

- Bayberry Road #2 at Turkey Hill Road
- Bayberry Road #50 at Turkey Hill Rd
- Butler Street #4 (2 trees)
- Butler Street #6
- Columbus Avenue #18 (2 trees)
- Coolidge Street (2 trees)
- Dennett Street #2
- Garnet Street at Dead End
- High Street #51 (3 trees)
- High Street #230 (2 trees)
- Oakland Street #47-49
- Parson Street #9
- Roosevelt Place #4
- Turkey Hill #33 (2 trees)
- Upland Road #10



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1. The Ash Tree EAB Treatment Program started this week and should be completed by the end of next week. The City will treat 47 trees (out of an inventoried 147) this year, including 18 along High Street. The rest line the streets of Wards 1 and 2. Bartlett Tree Experts will inject the trees. The first phase of the project costs the city just under \$10,000.
2. **WA** explained that as Tree Warden he instituted stump removal for all trees cut down. The cost is \$150-\$200 for 90% removal compared to \$400-\$600 for full removal. Prior to his tenure only several stumps were removed per year.
3. **WA** explained that a form to report Newburyport water used in watering the trees needs to be developed, so that the DEP will not think the City is losing water. As the TC is watering 246 trees this summer, we are using huge amounts of water. When Lady Tracey Anne fills the watering truck, the date and quantity will be recorded.

Inventory

KH shared the June, July and year-to-date totals for The DCR Challenge Grant. Volunteer totals qualify as matching funds, while the intern totals are reimbursable.

DCR Challenge Grant Tracking June 2018, July 2018, & YTD

| Volunteer/ Intern | # Trees ID'd | Hours | Hourly Rate | Total \$ | Miles | Rate | Total Mile \$ |
|-------------------|--------------|-------|-------------|------------|-------|--------|---------------|
| Volunteers | | | | | | | |
| June Totals | 580 | 91.0 | Var. | \$2,869.00 | 178.0 | \$0.54 | \$96.12 |
| July Totals | 912 | 107.8 | Var. | \$3,577.00 | 295.1 | \$0.54 | \$159.35 |
| YTD Totals | 1492 | 198.8 | Var. | \$6,446.00 | 473.1 | \$0.54 | \$255.47 |
| Interns | | | | | | | |
| June Totals | 627 | 67.0 | \$12.00 | \$804.00 | 102.0 | \$0.54 | \$55.08 |
| July Totals | 2855 | 227.5 | \$12.00 | \$2,730.00 | 267.8 | \$0.54 | \$144.61 |
| YTD Totals | 3482 | 294.5 | \$12.00 | \$3,534.00 | 369.8 | \$0.54 | \$199.69 |
| YTD Program Total | 4972 | 493.3 | | \$9,980.00 | 842.9 | \$0.54 | \$455.16 |

CM said that the trees in Lower Atkinson Common and Woodman Park remain to be inventoried.



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He discussed options for inventorying the trees in our 60 acre city forest and the 570 acre Little River Trail System. The MA DCR has advised him that he can hire a forester who will complete a “timber cruise”.

Planting

CP reported on current and future planting.

Spring 2018 Planting:

- Lady Tracey Anne is watering 246 trees for 2018 growing season
- **ST** completed distributing Year 3 door hangers

Fall 2018 Planting:

- 34 trees are planned which includes only requests from residents
- 3 trees were pushed to Spring 2019 at the request of the homeowners
- Paul Harrington completed bidding process for purchasing and planting
- 3 bids received for purchasing trees (Northeast Nursery, Bigelow Nurseries and Corliss Bros). **CP, CM & DD** met to discuss the final bids and determined the following:
Bigelow Nursery will be awarded all the trees for which they are able to satisfy our size specifications (16 trees), and Northeast Nursery for the remaining trees (18).
- Only 1 bid was received for planting (Plants & Pleasantrees)
- Will award bids by the end of the month

Spring 2019 Planting:

- Currently have 48 trees on the list of requests from residents. These include 4 Adopt-a-Trees.
- Potential Projects (Tyng St, Pheasant Run, Griffin House, Daniel St and Federal St) are not included at this time.

Grants/Donations

The Budget and Finance subcommittee approved the CPA recommendation to award \$35,800 to the **TC**. This will go before the City Council next Monday for final approval.

Education

ST will have more to report in the fall.



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Community Outreach

CM reported that Kim Kudym has had to resign from the Tree Commission for health reasons. We will miss her wonderful spirit and invaluable contributions in spreading the word about the **TC**'s work in the community, through her blog *Branching Out in Newburyport* and her *Tree Talk* newspaper column. **ST** is looking forward to her helping present next year's DCR Arbor Day poster contest to the students at the Molin School.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

FY 19 Annual Report

PB will be sending the Commissioners a skeleton Annual Report to begin our FY 19 Annual Report, which we will submit as an interim report in early April. He requests that as we send him material as it occurs, so that he can plug it in.

3-year old trees removed from our care.

ST reported that she had found a significant number of discrepancies on the list of residences to receive Year 3 door hangers. She will be following up on this and will report back to the **TC** next month.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sheila Taintor, Secretary

Next meeting: Thursday, Sept 13, 2018 at 7 PM

Location: Children's Activity Room, Newburyport Public Library