



## *City of Newburyport Tree Commission*

### **Meeting Minutes**

13 September, 2018

Children's Activity Room  
Newburyport Public Library

Meeting convened at 7 pm.

**Tree Commission members (TC) present:** Crispin Miller (Chair) (**CM**); Sheila Taintor (Secretary) (**ST**); Paul Bevilacqua (**PB**); David Dylewski (**DD**); Jane Niebling (**JN**)

**Tree Commission members absent:** Constance Preston (Treasurer) (**CP**); Katie Haried (Alternate) (**KH**), Wayne Amaral, Tree Warden and Deputy Director/Director of Operations, Department of Public Services, ex-officio (**WA**)

**Public in attendance:** Bonnie Sontag, 10 Upland Street

Shady News Talk # 4 *Planning Board . . . No Shady Business*

The Commission continued its series of informational presentations by guest speakers at the beginning of our monthly meetings to educate ourselves and interested citizens about matters relating to trees and our canopy. This month, Bonnie Sontag, Chair of Newburyport Planning Board, spoke with the **TC** about trees. It was a very useful discussion for us and for the Planning Board. Bonnie thanked the **TC** for its input on trees for projects coming before the Planning Board. We looked over the Tree Regulations which appear in 2 sections of the Newburyport Zoning Code: 1) Site Plan Review and 2) Subdivision Rules and Regulations. Together we noticed inconsistencies. Bonnie will be meeting with Julia Godfredtsen next Wednesday and will have these mistakes corrected. **CM** will send Bonnie a copy of suitable evergreens for the **PB**.

### **Reports**

#### **Secretary**

The Minutes of the August 9, 2018 Meeting were approved.

#### **Treasurer**

The Commission accepted the August Treasurer's Report.

#### **Tree Warden**

The Tree Warden sent in his report in his absence.

The total number of street trees removed for 2018 is 76.

The most recent tree removals are:

Bromfield St #77	Garnet St at dead end	Olive St #22
Carter St #54	Howard St opp. #24	Orange St #7
Everett Dr #5	Market St #37	Upland Rd #7
Fox Run Dr #10	Merrimac Ct #2	Walnut St #22
Garden St #7	Olive St #9	

The Ash Tree EAB Treatment Program: 48 trees have been treated. **WA** will attempt to fund another 50 trees in the spring of 2019.

### **Inventory**

**CM** reported that the tree inventory – including both street and park trees – was completed at 10:20 am on 8/30! There are about 11,000 trees in our inventory. **CM** and **FoNT** member Kate Dardinski (**KD**) will now start analyzing the database. They will need to add new fields in the database for trees inventoried between 2013 and 2016, in order to be able to fully use the database.

### **Planting Update**

**CP** sent in her report to be shared with the Commission in her absence.

Spring 2018 Planting:

- Lady Tracey Anne continues to water 246 trees for 2018 growing season
- All new trees have been mulched

Fall 2018 Planting:

- 34 trees planned which includes only requests from residents. These trees will be planted between 9/15 and 10/15.
- Northeast Nursery was awarded 18 trees
- Bigelow Nurseries was awarded 16 trees

Spring 2019 Planting:

- Currently have 46 trees on the list of requests from residents.
- Potential Projects (Tyng St, Pheasant Run, Griffin House, Daniel St., High St. and Federal St.) are not included.

**CM** reported that the **TC** will plan to limit the number of trees to be planted to no more than 75 in the future in either the spring or fall seasons.

**CM** purchased 72 more tree bags, which retail for \$30, for a cost of \$11.50 plus shipping expenses. We are currently using all the bags we have, and some will need to be retired after this season. **ST** will investigate how to properly dispose of these.

### **Grants/Donations**

**JN** stated that the \$53,900 received from the **CPC** will be adequate to complete the plantings on High Street over the next 18 months.

### **Education**

**ST** reported that the theme for the 2019 Arbor Day Poster Contest is “*Trees Have Mass Appeal.*”

### **Community Outreach**

**FoNT** has donated the sculpture tree on Rail Trail by Washington Street. There will be a dedication ceremony on Monday 9/17 at 3 pm.

### **Old Business**

There was no old business.

### **New Business**

#### **Recruitment of new TC member.**

With Kim Kudym’s resignation from the **TC**, we are down one member. **CM** asked us to think of potential members keeping in mind these needs: someone with bookkeeping to take over the responsibilities of the treasurer or someone to coordinate our fall and spring plantings.

#### **Tree pits.**

**DD** raised the need for the **TC** to maintain the tree pits. Many are filled with weeds, cigarette butts and garbage. It seems clear that the **TC** will need to find a volunteer to oversee this effort. **PB** will contact the Link House to see if the men there might be interested in working on this with us. Boy and girl scout troops and the environmental club at the HS are other groups we can reach out to.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Sheila Taintor, Secretary

**Next meeting:** Thursday, October 11, 2018 at 7 PM

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