



City of Newburyport Tree Commission

Meeting Minutes

14 February, 2019

Newburyport Public Library

Meeting convened at 7:05 pm.

Tree Commission members (TC) present: Crispin Miller (CM), Vice Chair/Treasurer; Sheila Taintor (ST) Secretary; Paul Bevilacqua (PB); David Dylewski (DD); Jane Niebling (JN); Lance Rickard (LR) Tree Warden Designee, Assistant Tree Warden, ex-officio

Tree Commission members absent: Constance Preston (CP) Chair; Scott Hanley (SH)

Public in attendance: Chuck Griffin, 12 Auburn Street

Shady News Talk #6

7:00-7:25 Chuck Griffin, leader of the Parks Commission for the Bartlet Mall

Topic: *Bartlet Mall's Shadowy Past*

Chuck Griffin (CG) shared a slide presentation about the history of the Bartlet Mall with the Commission and discussed the future removal of cherry trees planted by the Commission which were not in keeping with the Plan designed by Charles Elliot in 1887. Eliot was a famous 19th-century landscape architect, trained by and later partner of Frederick Law Olmstead. Features of the Eliot Plan include the steep banks and Elm Allée, the gravel trail lined with elms running parallel to High Street. The cherry trees to be removed will be replanted elsewhere in the City.

CG invited the Commissioners to join the Mall Improvement Association, which currently has 50 members.

Reports

Secretary

The Commission approved the Minutes of the 10 January, 2019 Meeting, with 1 abstention (PB).

Treasurer

The January Treasurer's Report was accepted.

Tree Warden

Total number of trees removed for 2018 (89)

Total trees removed to date in 2019 (27)

Total trees removed for February 2019:

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| ▪ 12 Lafayette St | ▪ 20 Beacon Ave |
| ▪ 1 Ocean Ave | ▪ 133 Crow Ln |
| ▪ 11 No. Atkinson | ▪ 18 Dawes |

- 11 Greenleaf St
- 148-150 Hale St (x 4)
- 211 High St
- 294 High St

Upcoming removes: TBD

LR mentioned that some trees which had been on the list of trees to be removed have instead been pruned. He and his crew have begun doing whole street pruning, and he is thinking about working on compacted tree pits and sidewalk repair.

Planting

CP sent in her report:

- Spring 2019 planting list has been finalized at 57 trees
- The budget covers purchase, planting and watering of the planned trees
- Bids have been sent to vendors for purchasing, planting and tree care for the spring planting. We are waiting on just one quote and will issue a report on the quotes once we receive it.
- Free cash proposal granted in Dec includes \$10K to cover the cost of inoculation of the second group (of 3 total groups) of Ash trees to protect them from the Emerald Ash Borer. DPS has received and approved the quote from Bartlett trees for \$9999. The final group will be treated next year. **DPS** has agreed to manage this project going forward and will budget for the work in future years so it will not be managed through the **TC**. Each group will be treated every 3 years per the recommendation of Bartlett Tree. The treatment schedule is as follows:

Group:	Treatments:
1.	2018, 2021, 2024 etc.
2.	2019, 2022, 2025 etc.
3.	2020, 2023, 2026 etc.

- The Tree Commission has advised the Tree Warden that the placement of the trees at the garage project (located at Merrimac & Titcomb) does not comply with the City of Newburyport Regulations for the Protections of Public Trees. The ultimate decision and responsibility fall to the Tree Warden.

Inventory

CM reported that there are just 2 parcels of land containing trees to be inventoried: the City Forest (approximately 48+ acres) and the Little River Trail System (approximately 300 acres). **CM** has received quotes for having these 2 parcels inventoried. There is money left (~\$3,000) in the DCR grant, but we would need to offset the money received with volunteer hours. DCR also has a Forest Stewardship program that could provide about \$950.

Grants/Donations

JN reported that she has submitted the following applications for grants:

- \$13,000 to the CPC for the planting of 25 trees on Merrimac Street
- \$1,000 to the Network for Good for updating the FoNT website
- \$6,000 to the Cutter Fund
- \$6,000 to the Morrill Foundation
- \$26,000 to the Bromfield for planting the final 41 tree sites on High Street
- \$1,000 to the Five Cents Bank to print the Newburyport Tree Guide

Education

ST reported that the **RVCS** is definitely participating in the 2019 MA DCR Arbor Day Poster Contest, but she is not sure about the Immaculate Conception or the Edward G. Molin School Upper Elementary School.

Community Outreach

JN reported that she will be submitting an article written by Jean Berger on pruning to the Daily News shortly.

There was discussion about the Tree Commission webpage on the City website. **PB** reminded Commissioners that prior to former Tree Warden Wayne Amaral, Lisa Exum had taken care of posting TC documents on the web page. **ST** will check whether it makes sense to restore that procedure and will look into the possibility of including a link to FoNT on the Tree Commission web page.

Old Business

“Not Recommended Trees” document for website (to replace “Invasive Trees in MA”). **CM** will send **ST** a document listing trees not recommended for planting.

Maintenance of Tree Pits

Topic postponed until March due to Scott Hanley’s absence.

Guide to Newburyport Trees

The **Newburyport Tree Guide** is being reorganized by common name rather than Latin name to facilitate the use by the majority of the expected audience. Two indices are being created: one by Latin name and the other by common name. The FoNT Recognition Tree is being added as a “Newburyport” tree.

New Business

Discussion of the Tree Commission Survey

Topic postponed until March when CP will be present to lead discussion.

Brief review of the role of the Tree Plan statement and the various related City documents (rather than Tree Commission documents)

PB discussed the legality of Tree Commission Regulations for the Protection of Public Trees with the City Clerk, and read the following statement drafted by the City Clerk to be added at the foot of the Regulations: *Pursuant to Code Section 12-177 and with the permission of the City Clerk said Regulation, and any amendments thereto posted herewith are filed with the City Clerk.* He will send that statement to **ST** who will add the statement and reformat the document.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sheila Taintor, Secretary

Next meeting: Thursday, March 14, 2018 at 7 PM

Location: Children's Activity Room, Newburyport Public Library