



City of Newburyport Tree Commission

Meeting Minutes

13 March 2019

Children's Activity Room
Newburyport Public Library

Meeting convened at 7:02 pm.

Tree Commission members (TC) present: Constance Preston (**CP**), Chair; Crispin Miller (**CM**), Vice Chair/Treasurer; Sheila Taintor (**ST**), Secretary; Paul Bevilacqua (**PB**); Scott Hanley (**SH**); Jamie Tuccolo (**JT**), Tree Warden (**TW**), ex-officio

Tree Commission members absent: David Dylewski (**DD**); Jane Niebling (**JN**)

Others present: Lance Rickard (**LR**) Assistant Tree Warden (**Asst. TW**), Tree Warden Designee, ex-officio

Public in attendance:

Lucie and Mark Gallagher, 19 Beacon Avenue

Dorothy and Joseph Fanaras, 1 Upland Street

Louise Nelson, 25 Lafayette Street

Andrew Soracco, 33 Middle Street

Public comment:

Mark Gallagher (**MG**), 19 Beacon Avenue, said he would love to work with the **TC**. He explained his concern about a tree recently taken down at Perkins Park. **LR** explained that the Parks Department had requested that Norway Maple be removed. **MG** also stated that Pine Street was very barren. **CP** explained that Pine Street is slated for 6 trees in the fall 2019 planting.

Dorothy and Joseph Fanaras (**DF**, **JF**), 1 Upland Street, have submitted a request to the **TW** to have 2 street trees, a pine (dbh 33") and an oak (dbh 55.5") on their property removed. **DF** discussed their concern about the white pine which they feel is a hazardous tree. She does not feel secure in their house since a limb fell down and is worried about children next door and across the street. The **TW**, **JT**, and the **Asst. TW**, **LR**, both stated that they believe that the trees are not hazard trees and are healthy. **DF** stated that since filing the applications, they learned that in the opinion of a private surveyor the oak tree is on their property and therefore they will take it down. **JT** disagreed and stated that the oak tree is a street tree since it falls within the right of way. **PB**, at the request of **CP**, explained the process outlined in Section 12-195 for the removal of City-owned trees and encouraged the Fanaras to read the Ordinance and consider taking

advantage of the opportunity to have a public hearing relative to the removal of the City-owned trees in question.

Louise Nelson (**LN**), 25 Lafayette Street, came to express her concern for Lafayette Street, which very recently has lost 3 street trees, and Arlington Street. **CP** stated that 10 trees are planned for Arlington in spring 2019 and the Commission is committed to planting trees on Lafayette as well. Once the snow is gone, the Commission will look at the street to determine sites. Trees and sites for the Spring Planting have already been determined, but there will be sites open in the Fall Planting. **LN** said she would be happy to be a neighborhood leader to work with others about caring for the street trees on Lafayette and Arlington.

Andrew Soracco (**AS**), 33 Middle Street, is a Gr 4-8 teacher at the River Valley Charter School. A student recently asked him about tapping maple trees. He would love to do wonderful local outdoor activities with his students and would like to be able to use the tree inventory to plan educational activities for his students. **CM** explained the multiple ways the inventory could be shared and said they should discuss it further. **CP** asked **AS** to send an email to **JT** outlining his ideas so that we can move ahead on this.

Reports

Secretary

The Commission unanimously approved the Minutes of the 14 February 2019 Meeting.

Treasurer

The February Treasurer's Report was unanimously accepted.

Tree Warden

Total number of trees removed for 2018: 89

Total trees removed for March 2019:

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| ▪ Arlington @ High St. | ▪ Lafayette @ High St. |
| ▪ 33 Federal St. | ▪ 14 Lafayette St. |
| ▪ 58 Kent St. | ▪ 57 Purchase St. |

Total trees removed 2019: 33

Upcoming removes: TBD

A link to FoNT has been added to the **TC** website.

Planting and Pruning

Spring Planting 2019

CP reported that:

- Planting list has been finalized at 57 trees
- Bid for planting awarded to Plants & Pleasantrees for \$8550
- Bid for Tree Care awarded to Lady Tracey Anne for \$9320
- Bid for purchase of 15 trees awarded to Northeast Nursery for \$4620
- Bid for purchase of 42 trees awarded to Bigelow Nursery for \$7300. The trees from Bigelow will be sent in 2 shipments. Plants & Pleasantrees will determine which trees are in each shipment according to the convenience in planting them.

Inventory

CM reported that the Inventory is done except for 3 parcels: (1) 3 acres on the north end of Woodman Park on Crow Lane, (2) ~48 acres in the City Forest and (3) ~300 acres in the Little River Trail System. It was determined that the LRTS is not worth doing at this point. The cost for the remaining two parcels would be about \$3675 which includes a 10-year management/forest stewardship plan for the City forest.

To pay for inventorying Woodland Park and the City Forest, **CM** is looking at using about \$1500 from the remainder of the **DCR** inventory grant (must be spent by June 30), applying for a **DCR** Stewardship grant for \$960, and receiving the approximately \$1215 remaining from the City. **JT** will not know if there is any money available in the **DPS** budget until May. **CM** and **JT** agreed to meet as soon as possible to determine next steps. (This inventory summary has been supplemented by an additional email exchange).

Grants/Donations

In **JN**'s absence, **CM** and **CP** reported that the **CPC** meeting with all grant applicants is scheduled for Tuesday, March 26.

Education

ST had nothing to report.

Community Outreach

A Tree Talk column, "Start thinking now about spring planting", written by Jean Berger, appeared in the 26 February 2019 Daily News.

Old Business

Website documents

The **TC** voted to abandon the idea of developing a “Not Recommended Trees” document for the website. The “List of Invasive Trees in MA” will be renamed “Prohibited Trees in MA” and the “List of Recommended Trees will be renamed “Approved Trees”.

Regulations for the Protection of Public Trees

The **TC** voted unanimously to approve the following wording to be added at the bottom of the *Regulations for the Protection of Public Trees* and all future regulations:

Pursuant to Code Section 12-177 and with the permission of the City Clerk said Regulation, and any amendments thereto posted, herewith are considered filed with the City Clerk.

ST will add this wording and send the corrected document to **JT** to be posted on the **TC** webpage. (Subsequent to the meeting, the document was posted on 3/16.)

Maintenance of Tree Pits

SH reported that he has made contact with a Boy Scout troop and will be contacting the advisor of the NHS Environmental Club next week.

Guide to Newburyport Trees

CM reported there will be a “resources page” containing tree ID books and web sites of interest. The Guide is on schedule for distribution in time for Arbor Day.

New Business

Discussion of the Tree Commission Survey.

CP handed out the Survey Summary and briefly discussed it. There will be more discussion of the future direction of the **TC** at a future to-be-scheduled retreat.

Spring 2019 Pruning/Mulching Days

SH informed the Commission that this spring’s Pruning/Mulching Day will be Saturday, April 27 (Arbor Day) and Saturday, May 4.

Discussion of Tree Commission meeting day/time

The decision was made (4 yes, 1 abstention [ST]) to change the TC meeting day/time to first Wednesdays at 4 pm, effective 1 May. Our next meeting will be on at our previously scheduled day and time: Thursday, 11 April 2019 at 7 PM in the Children's Activity Room.

Proposed modifications to the large parking lot at 341 Merrimac St.

The TC voted unanimously to send the Planning Board a letter asking them to require a sidewalk and wide planting strip for trees along the whole parking lot opposite the Mersen building, in time for their March 20 meeting at which they will review the Mersen minor site plan. ST will draft the letter.

Process for deciding what trees are to be removed by the City

There was no time for this item, so it will be held over for the April meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sheila Taintor, Secretary

Next meeting: Thursday, 11 April, 2019 at 7 PM

Location: Children's Activity Room, Newburyport Public Library