



## *City of Newburyport Tree Commission*

### **Meeting Minutes**

11 April 2019

Children's Activity Room  
Newburyport Public Library

Meeting convened at 7:05 pm.

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

**Tree Commission members absent:** Jamie Tuccolo (JT), Tree Warden, ex-officio

**Public in attendance:** Mark Gallagher, 19 Beacon Street

### **Reports**

#### **Secretary**

The Commission approved the Minutes of the March 2019 Meeting with a change.

#### **Treasurer**

The March Treasurer's Report was accepted.

#### **Tree Warden**

2018 Total of Street Trees Removed was 89.      2019 Total of Street Trees Removed is 37.

Trees removed for March/April:

- |                    |                    |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| ▪ 261 Merrimac St. | ▪ 344 Merrimac St. |
| ▪ 71 Turkey Hill.  | ▪ 326 Merrimac St. |

**LR** is planning to start working on improving tree pits and exposing root flairs. An air excavator will be added into the 2020 FY budget. In the meantime, he is opening up tree pits and adding dehydrated cow manure to them.

**LR** explained that he actively uses the Inventory as a management tool. He updates the inventory each time he works on a tree. Removed trees/trunks/stumps are noted when action is taken and photos of the stumps of trees removed are added to the entry in the database.

(1) The discussion of how decisions to remove street trees are made and (2) the update on the tree removal request at 1 Upland Rd were moved from Old Business. (1) **LR** explained that safety is the number one consideration for deciding whether to remove a street tree. (2) The residents at 1 Upland brought the Tree Warden the report prepared by a private surveyor which

determined that the oak tree in question was on their property, and as such, they are entitled to remove it.

## **Reports**

### **Planting and Pruning**

#### Spring Planting 2019:

- Spring 2019 planting list has been finalized at 57 trees
- Planting will be done the week of 5/13
- Bigelow trees will be delivered to Colby Farm Lane the morning of 5/13, and will be the first trees planted
- Northeast Nursery Trees will be picked up by Plants & Pleasantrees the day they are to be planted
- **CP** will check with Plants & Pleasantrees to ensure that all trees are watered on the day of planting
- **CM, DD** and **JN** will place water bags and door hangers for new trees after planting
- **ST** will distribute the year 3 doorhangers to residents for the trees which will no longer be watered by the **TC**
- Spring pruning and mulching dates are Saturday, 4/27 and 5/4.
- Fall 2019 planting: **CP** mentioned that there are currently 26 residents requesting a street tree for the Fall 2019 planting. **CM** mentioned that the 25 Liberty Elms preordered by the **TC** must be picked up in the fall to be planted.

## **Inventory**

**CM** shared the “Guide to Newburyport Trees” with members of the Commission, who were unanimously thrilled with it. The initial printing was for 50 copies, of which only 2 remain. The initial printing was paid for through the DCR Inventory grant. In addition to members of the **TC**, **CM** has distributed copies to the Mayor and **DPS**. **CM** will order an additional 75 copies. **PB** suggested giving the **CPC** and City councilors copies of the Guide. Later, **SH** suggested approaching realtors with the Guide, as it would make a lovely gift for new homeowners.

**CM** stated that the Commission will need to update 1/5 of the 5832 City trees in the database each year.

## **Grants/Donations**

**JN** reported that she has submitted a grant application to the Morrill Foundation for \$4000 to plant 10 trees on Merrimac Street. The decision will not be made until June.

### **Community Outreach**

**CM** reported that **FoNT** has scheduled the 3rd Annual Tree Party for Kids on Friday April 26 at Atkinson Common. The Mayor will read the Tree City Proclamation and parents and their young children will enjoy a preschool activity, a snack and a walk around Atkinson Common.

**CM** and **FoNT** member Jean Berger made a presentation to the Newburyport Horticulture Society on 4/10, and discussed both the **TC** and **FoNT**, what each is, how they differ and projects of both as well as street trees and private trees. This presentation can be shortened or lengthened according to the time available. The plan is to now take it to service organizations in the City, the first of which will be the Rotary.

### **Old Business**

#### **Tree Commission meeting day/time**

The Commission voted to reschedule its meetings to the 2nd Wednesdays at 6 pm. There was discussion of where to meet and the DPS building was chosen. Vote: yes 4, no 3 (**PB, JN, ST**).

### **New Business**

There was no time to discuss the **Tree Removal Hearing Process**. **PB** gave a quick summary of the intent. **CM** suggested adding a bullet summary of the process to the documentation. The process will be discussed more at the May meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:46 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Sheila Taintor, Secretary

**Next meeting:** Wednesday, May 8, 2019 at 6 PM

**Location:** Department of Public Services, 16A Perry Way