



City of Newburyport Tree Commission

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, 8 May 2019

Department of Public Services, 16A Perry Way

Meeting convened at 6 pm.

Tree Commission members (TC) present: Constance Preston (CP), Chair; Crispin Miller (CM), Vice Chair/Treasurer; Sheila Taintor (ST), Secretary; 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

Shady News Talk #7 Tony Will of Read Custom Soils spoke with the Commission about structural soils.

Reports

Secretary

The Commission approved the Minutes of the 11 April 2019 Meeting unanimously.

Treasurer

The April Treasurer's Report was unanimously accepted.

Tree Warden

Total Street Trees Removed in 2018 was 89.

Most recent tree removals are:

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| ▪ 21 Ashland St | ▪ Moseley Pines (Park Dept.) |
| ▪ 8 Columbus Ave | ▪ Noble St @ Rte 113 |
| ▪ 1 Daniel Lucy Way | ▪ 3 Payson St |
| ▪ 3 Farrell St | ▪ Perry Way @ Island |
| ▪ 6 Farrell St | ▪ Pine Hill Rd (across from #5) |
| ▪ 259 High St | ▪ 71 Turkey Hill Rd |
| ▪ 263 High St | ▪ 44 Tyng St |
| ▪ McClintock Ave (across from 13 Sylvester) | ▪ 49 Tyng St |
| ▪ 326 Merrimac St | ▪ 54 Washington St |
| ▪ 344 Merrimac St | ▪ 7 William Hall Dr |
| ▪ 568 Merrimac St | |

This list of trees includes some trees that were reported removed last month. These discrepancies will be looked into and correct numbers will be reported in the future.

Planting and Pruning

CP reported:

- Spring 2019 planting list remained constant at 57 trees
- Dig safe has been performed on all tree sites
- All concrete pits have been cut
- Dave Carvill (Plants & Pleasantrees) has the final list with notations on nursery sourcing and tree placement notes
- There will be 12 brick pits built by Plants & Pleasantrees (@\$100*) *figure corrected post meeting
- Planting will be done the week of May 13th
- Bigelow trees will be delivered to Colby Farm Lane the morning of May 10th
- Northeast Nursery Trees will be picked up by Plants & Pleasantrees the morning they are planted
- Water bags have been placed on all existing trees on the tree care list by **DD & CM**
- Water bags and door hangers will be placed on new trees after planting by **CM & JN**
- Door hangers for year 3 trees will be distributed by **ST** by May 17 for the trees which will no longer be watered by the TC

Inventory

CM reported that we submitted and received a partial reimbursement from MA DCR of \$9263.32 for the period June 2018 through October 2018. This reimbursement was for money already spent. In July we will be submitting a request for final reimbursement for what was spent between Nov. 2018 and June 2019.

CM reported that the Inventory is being updated with current plantings and removals. The 57 trees planted this spring will be added to the inventory when he and **JN** apply their gator bags, and **LR** is updating the trees removed as they are removed. However there remains a gap of about 290 trees which were taken down, but never recorded on the database. FoNT member Kate Dardinski is updating the Inventory with these removals and shortly the Inventory will be completely current.

The Commission will update 1/5 of the City trees in the database each year, so that there is no tree report older than 5 years.

Grants/Donations

JN reported that we received funding from both the A.G. Cutter Trust Fund (\$3,300) and the Bromfield Trust (\$6,400). We have 18 months to expend these funds. The Bromfield Trust grant came with a stipulation that we prove that 50% of the money we receive is spent on sidewalks. We have received monies from Bromfield before, but this is the first time there has been a restriction placed on money awarded to the Tree Commission. **JN** will check back with the Bromfield Trust for an explanation of exactly what is intended. Spending 50% of our grant on sidewalks would not be feasible.

Community Outreach

A total of 100 Tree Guides have been printed of which there are 18 left. 15 have been purchased. **CP** and **CM** distributed a copy of the Guide to all City Councilors. Copies of the Guide have also been given to 3 former Tree Commissioners, Hugh Kelleher, Ed Taylor player and Byron Getchell. **CM** gave a copy to Richard Lodge, editor of the Daily News, which led to the wonderful page one article about the Guide on 5/1/2019. There was also a Tree Talks column which included mention of the Guide the same day. There has been discussion of the Tree Guide on Newburyport Commons as well.

Old Business

Interim Annual Report FY 2019

CP submitted the Interim Annual Report to the Mayor on 5/2/2019.

PB will be updating the Annual Report for the final version covering the whole FY 2019 to be submitted to the Mayor and placed on the **TC** website.

Determination of Street Trees

LR explained that the City will continue to use the parcel and street lines as drawn on the Newburyport MIMAP, unless a resident proves otherwise through a private survey of their property, as was the case at 1 Upland Street.

Public Tree Removal Documents

The documents prepared by **PB** and **ST**, excerpting relevant explanatory text from the Tree Ordinance, a bulleted description of the process, and an application for requesting a public hearing for the process, were discussed and unanimously approved by the Commission. **CP** will discuss these documents with the Tree Warden.

New Business

CP reported that alternate Katie Haried is stepping down from the Tree Commission. The **TC** is very grateful for the immense job she did keeping track of the volunteer and intern hours on the Inventory for the DCR Challenge Grant and is saddened by her departure.

Andrew Soracco has written a letter to the Mayor applying for the position of alternate on the Tree Commission.

Assistant Tree Warden **LR** went to the yard waste facility on Colby Farm Lane with Andrew Soracco (**AS**), science teacher at River Valley Charter School, and cut some tree “cookies” that **AS** can use in his RVCS classroom to discuss the cambium, xylem and phloem of a tree. He will prepare lesson plans to share with the Nock and Molin School teachers, so that all Newburyport public school students can learn about trees.

PB inquired about the maple tapping that **AS** had asked to do in our March meeting. **PB** was concerned that **AS** be given formal authorization to tap the trees, so that he would not be disturbed by concerned citizens while tapping trees. The **TC** agreed that this was important and **CP** will check into it.

Andrew Port of the Office of Planning and Development inquired into the Tree Commission’s system for watering trees to ensure that the trees and vegetation planted in the sidewalk in front of the new Parking Garage are properly cared for. **CP** shared the information with him and has given him the contact info for Lady Tracey Anne.

The meeting adjourned at 8:12 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Sheila Taintor, Secretary

Next meeting: Wednesday, June 12, 2019 at 6 PM

Location: Department of Public Services, 16A Perry Way