



City of Newburyport Tree Commission

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, 12 June 2019

Department of Public Services, 16A Perry Way

Meeting convened at 6 pm.

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

Tree Commission members absent: David Dylewski (**DD**)

Public in attendance: Sara Bakanesky, 2 Garner Street

Sara Bakanesky inquired into the process of requesting a street tree for her property.

Reports

Secretary

The Commission approved the Minutes of the May 8, 2018 Meeting unanimously.

Treasurer

The May Treasurer's Report was unanimously accepted.

Tree Warden

Total number of trees removed for 2018: 89

Total trees removed for May 2019: 6

- 80 High St.
- Moseley Pines (Park Dept.)
- 15 Milk St. (2 trees)
- 364 Merrimac St.
- Hill St cemetery

Starting with June, the Tree Warden's report will reflect the total number of trees removed during the previous calendar month, rather than those removed between meetings.

JT and **LR** reported that they have clarified the definition of a "removed tree" to mean a tree cut down to the ground. Some trees had been counted twice: first when they were reduced to a butt log, and then again when the butt log was cut down to the ground. They have corrected the reported numbers of trees removed for 2019.

Thus, the total trees removed in 2019 is 26.



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LR alerted the Commissioners to the fact that one of two elm trees (possibly American elms) located at the Newburyport Public Library, is dying due to Dutch Elm disease. The second elm, located on the corner of Harris, is healthy but should be closely monitored.

Upcoming removes: TBD

Planting

- Spring 2019 planting of 57 trees is complete
- One is on the rail trail in the South End at the Edible Avenue (Shagbark Hickory) planted by DPS
- Three trees had to be relocated at the last minute due to old stumps:
 - Okame Cherry (originally planned for 56 Bromfield) moved to 18 Atwood St
 - Amur Maple (7A Munroe) moved to 1 Ocean St, planted by DPS
 - Amur Maple (9A Munroe) moved to 1 Ocean St, planted by DPS

In the future, a new tree will not be planted if there is a stump present unless the resident chooses to pay for the stump removal.

- Water bags and door hangers have been placed on all new trees by **JN & CM**
- All new trees were mulched by **DD & CM**
- Door hangers for year 3 trees were delivered by **ST**
- There are 5 trees that have failed/possibly failing:
 - 117 Water St. Okame Cherry planted Spring 2018
 - 283 High St. Sweet Gum planted Spring 2018
 - 296 High St. Ironwood planted Spring 2018
 - 298 High St. 2 Ironwoods planted Fall 2018

There is concern over the 3 Ironwoods. **LR** suspects that the trees were planted a bit too deep. If the trees die, he will inspect the roots to see what may have caused the demise of the tree.

Grants/Donations

JN reported that she received word from the Community Preservation Committee (**CPC**) that they voted to recommend her application for \$13,000 for planting trees on Merrimac. Discussion before the **CPC** vote showed some concern about whether trees on Merrimac St. would meet the criteria of historic preservation. **JN** plans to attend the City Council meeting at which the **CPC** recommendations will be voted on.



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JN will be contacting the Bromfield Trust for a clarification of what is intended by requiring that we spend 50% of their grant on sidewalks.

Education

No update.

Community Outreach

The column written by Lance Rickard, "Assistant tree warden, arborist enjoys the job", and a photo of him got separated. The photo was published in 6/12 Daily News (**DN**) without the article. **JN** called the paper, and the article will appear in 6/13 **DN** with better photo. (note post meeting: article was published in 6/13 paper with original photo.)

FoNT will man a table at the 6/23 Open Streets event in the South End.

Guide to Newburyport Trees: Three runs of the Tree Guides have been ordered to date. A 4th run of 100 additional copies with editorial changes to pages 2, 3 and 56 will be printed.

Inventory

All trees planted this spring have been added to the inventory, and **LR** has updated all the trees removed.

Old Business FY 2019 Annual Report

PB and **ST** will complete the final version of the FY 2019 Annual Report in early July, which will be submitted to the Mayor shortly thereafter.

Update on Public Tree Removal Hearing Process

JT has reviewed the Public Tree Removal Hearing Process and will be posting it on the TC website shortly.

New Business

JT reported that the resident of 49 Marlboro will be attending the July meeting to discuss the removal of a street tree originally planted at 49 Marlboro, which was then transplanted on his side property on Riley Street.

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sheila Taintor, Secretary

Next meeting: Wednesday, 10 July, 2019 at 6 PM

Location: Department of Public Services, 16A Perry Way