



City of Newburyport Tree Commission

Meeting Minutes

8 November, 2018

Children's Activity Room
Newburyport Public Library

Meeting convened at 7:04 pm.

Tree Commission members (TC) present: Crispin Miller (Chair) (**CM**), Constance Preston (Treasurer) (**CP**), Sheila Taintor (Secretary) (**ST**), Paul Bevilacqua (**PB**), David Dylewski (**DD**), Jane Niebling (**JN**), Scott Hanley (**SH**), Katie Haried (**KH**), Wayne Amaral, Tree Warden and Deputy Director/Director of Operations, Department of Public Services, ex-officio (**WA**)

No public in attendance

This was a special Tree Commission meeting marking both an ending and a beginning. We said farewell to Wayne Amaral, our cherished Tree Warden, and welcomed a new Commissioner, Scott Hanley.

Reports

Secretary

The Commission approved the Minutes of the September 2018 Meeting unanimously. (The **TC** did not meet in October.)

Treasurer

The October 2018 Treasurer's Report was unanimously accepted.

CP explained that scheduled watering was cancelled 4 times over the summer/fall season due to rain or projected rain. Each cancellation saved the **TC** \$1,968 (246 trees @ \$8), which was applied to extend the waterings in the fall.

Tree Warden

Total Street Trees Removed in 2018 is 84

Most recent tree removals are:

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| ▪ Beacon Avenue #18 | ▪ Guild Street #5 (2 trees) |
| ▪ Charles Street #40 | ▪ Prospect Street #119-121 (2 trees) |
| ▪ Coffin Street #2 | ▪ Woodland Street at Carleton Street |

WA said they are on track to remove a total of about 100 trees this year.

WA reminded the **TC** that ash trees need 2 injections in successive years to be protected from the Emerald Ash Borer (**EAB**). Last spring, 48 trees (~1/3 of Newburyport's ash trees) were injected, and they will need their second injection early this spring. In addition it would be

optimal to do the 1st round of injections on the next 50 trees. The following spring, the second 50 trees should get their 2nd injections and the remaining third should get their first injection. There is no money set aside for this in the budget, so the **TC** should plan to make a request from free cash.

Planting and Pruning

CP shared the report she had prepared for the October meeting which was cancelled.

Spring 2018 Planting:

- Lady Tracey Anne finalized the watering of 246 trees for 2018 growing season
- All new trees have been mulched

Fall 2018 Planting:

- 33 trees (all requests from residents) were planted in September by Plants & Pleasantrees
- The order was split between Northeast Nursery (17 trees) and Bigelow Nurseries (16 trees)
- These trees were mulched (11/7) and inventoried.

Spring 2019 Planting:

- There are currently 54 trees on the list of requests from residents
- Potential projects (Tyng St, Pheasant Run, Griffin House, Daniel St, High St and Federal St) are not included

CP explained that **SH** has agreed to take on the responsibility of supervising future spring and fall plantings. He will work closely with **CP** next spring as he learns the ropes and assume total responsibility for the fall planting. The **TC** expressed their appreciation to both: **CP** for her incredible effort this past spring and fall, and **SH** for stepping up to take over.

Inventory

KH is submitting a request for reimbursement to the **MA DCR** for about \$10,000 of our \$13,000 grant.

The **TC** expressed their gratitude to **KH** for her colossal effort of tracking all the details for the inventory.

The activity described in the chart on the next page is a result of the yearlong **MA DCR** matching grant to take the inventory of Newburyport's public trees. Two interns were hired for a 3-month period. Volunteers from the Tree Commission, the Friends of Newburyport Trees (FoNT) and several interested citizens were recruited. The volunteer hours and other operating expenses are eligible to match the reimbursable cost of the interns.

DCR Inventory Challenge Grant Tracking
June 2018 - October 2018, & YTD

Volunteer/ Intern	Task	# Trees ID'd	Hours	Miles
Volunteers				
June	Inventory / Administration	580	97.50	151.4
July	Inventory / Administration	918	111.25	291.1
August	Inventory / Administration	1,061	90.75	168.3
September	Inventory / Administration	0	23.50	13.3
October	Inventory / Administration	0	53.75	11.0
2018 YTD Volunteer Totals		2,559	376.75	635.1
Interns				
June	Inventory	623	67.00	102.0
July	Inventory	2,855	225.00	267.6
August	Inventory	2,722	260.50	235.5
September	Tree Book / Administration	0	55.80	
2018 YTD Intern Totals		6,200	608.30	605.1
2018 YTD INVENTORY TOTALS		8,759	985.05	1,240.2

Grants/Donations

JN reported that she will be submitting the application for the annual *Tree City USA* designation. She will need to include our volunteer hours for this calendar year and asked the commissioners to send their hours (exclusive of inventorying) to her in early December, adding in estimated hours for December.

She will prepare a report of all grants with details and deadlines to be distributed at the TC December meeting.

Education

No update.

Community Outreach

The TC expressed their appreciation to JN for her interesting and informative article *It takes all kinds of trees* which appeared in the 10/31 Daily News.

Old Business

Callery Pear

The TC currently has 2 lists of trees posted on our website: *Recommended Trees* and *Invasive Trees in Massachusetts*. It was decided that we would rename the *Invasive Trees* document *Undesirable Trees* and add trees such as the Callery Pear to it. In addition to the Callery Pear, there are several trees considered invasive in neighboring states, but have not yet been so designated in Mass. KH will work on the list of trees to be added and send them to ST for the retitled document.

Maintenance of Tree Pits

This summer's weather was optimal for crab grass which led to very unsightly tree pits. The TC agreed that since the DPS does not have the manpower we should take on the task for maintaining the condition of the tree pits and discussed how we might do it. Asking residents to be responsible for "their" city tree pits has not been successful, but we should consider adding this request to the information handed out to residents on planting day, and perhaps emphasize it more on the tree bag tags. We should also seek volunteers to help with this task. Reaching out to the H.S. for students in need of volunteer hours, contacting scout troops to see if a scout might take this on as an Eagle Scout project were mentioned. CM shared that having residents of the Link House help is not feasible for us, since their rate is \$20/hour.

New Business

2019 Free Cash request and FY 2020 budget

The TC approved a motion to submit the **FY 19 Free Cash** request to the Director of the DPS and the Mayor at the appropriate time by the Chair. If needed the Chair is authorized to make any reasonable adjustments in the proposal which he deems appropriate prior to submission.

The TC approved a motion to submit the **FY 20 Budget** proposal to the Director of the DPS and the Mayor at the appropriate time by the Chair. If needed the Chair is authorized to make any reasonable adjustments in the proposal which he deems appropriate prior to submission.

The meeting adjourned at 8:43 PM Children's Activity Room time.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sheila Taintor, Secretary

Next meeting: Thursday, December 13, 2018 at 7 PM

Location: Children's Activity Room, Newburyport Public Library