



City of Newburyport Tree Commission

Meeting Minutes

13 December, 2018

Children's Activity Room
Newburyport Public Library

Meeting convened at 7:03 PM.

Tree Commission (TC) members present: Crispin Miller (**CM**), Chair; Sheila Taintor (**ST**), Secretary; Paul Bevilacqua (**PB**); Scott Hanley (**SH**)

Tree Commission members absent: Constance Preston (**CP**) Treasurer); David Dylewski (**DD**); Jane Niebling (**JN**); Jamie Tuccolo (**JT**), interim Tree Warden, ex-officio

No Public in attendance.

Shady News Talk #5

7:05-7:35 Speaker: Neil Doran, National Grid Merrimack Valley Forestry Supervisor
Topic: The Power of the Trees

Reports

Secretary

The Commission approved the Minutes of the 8 November, 2018 Meeting.

Treasurer

There was no Treasurer's Report this month. There will be a year-end report at the January meeting.

Tree Warden

Total Street Trees removed in 2018 is 89.

Most recent tree removals are:

- ◇ Market Street #10 ◇ Ferry Road #22 & #26 (2 trees removed - were on Moulton St.)
- ◇ Beacon Ave. #20 ◇ Perkins Playground on Beacon Ave

Both Tony Furnari and Jamie Tuccolo (Tree Warden) will attend the January meeting to discuss changes in DPS that they know will make things work well.

Planting and Pruning

Spring 2019 Planting:

- Spring 2019 planting list has been finalized at 62 trees. All are requests from residents.
- Species determinations have been finalized for all 62 trees.

- City Council approved our free cash proposal on 12/10/18, giving us funds to cover 58 trees.
- It is highly likely that there will be some changes to the planting list. Inevitably some trees will fall off the list. If no trees fall off the list, the last 4 trees added will be moved to the Fall 2019 Planting. Residents are aware of this.
- Free cash proposal also includes \$10K to cover the cost of inoculation of Phase I Ash trees. **CP** will work with **DPS** to get that done.
- Potential projects (Tyng St, Pheasant Run, Griffin House, Daniel St and Federal St) are not included in Spring 2019 list.

Inventory

CM and Kate Dardinski (**KD**), FoNT board member, have been working with the database of inventoried trees and have discovered some software anomalies. They are pointing them out to the software engineer at MVPC who is fixing them one-by-one.

Grants/Donations

Prior to this meeting and in anticipation of her absence, **JN** submitted a document listing grant activity and history along with deadlines.

Education

ST reported that plans for the 2019 poster contest are underway.

Community Outreach

JN's most recent Tree Talk column, *Getting Ready for Spring*, appeared in the 12/13 **DN**.

Old Business

“Undesirable Tree” document for website

There was discussion around the “*Undesirable Tree*” document on the website. It was decided that it will be called “*Not Recommended Trees*” and will include both “invasive” and “undesirable” trees. **CM** wishes to get feedback on our tree list from Neil Doran, our *Shady News* presenter tonight.

Maintenance of Tree Pits

SH has taken on the task of finding volunteers who can assume responsibility for maintaining our tree pits weed- and trash-free.

New Business

PB raised a concern about where trees are going to be planted around the new garage. He felt that the tree pits he had seen did not conform to the City of Newburyport Tree Regulations as posted on the DPS website. He wasn't able to locate the specific regulation he had in mind during the meeting. He promised to find it and share it later. **CM** shared his concern that the trees are being planted "this fall", since planting them now seems risky.

We will hold the *Annual Tree Commission Calendar* discussion for the January meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Sheila Taintor, Secretary

Next meeting: Thursday, 10 January, 2018 at 7 PM

Location: Children's Activity Room, Newburyport Public Library