



City of Newburyport Tree Commission

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 14, 2022, 6:00 pm

The meeting convened at 6:03 pm.

Tree Commission members present: Sheila Taintor (Chair), Marcia Edson, Scott Hanley, Paul Knowlton

Absent: Sue Brown, Paul Harrington, Jamie Tuccolo (Tree Warden, ex-officio)

Public in attendance: Marilyn Cohodas, 66 Washington Street

Open Time for Residents

Marilyn Cohodas attended the meeting and was welcomed as a potential new member. Although her meeting with the Mayor was cancelled, she will make another appointment to meet him and continue the process for appointment to the Commission.

Shady News Talk

Sheila had asked Jamie Tuccolo to invite Lance Rickard to meet with the Commission at the beginning of this meeting, but Lance declined. Sheila suggested members introduce themselves to Lance if they see him working in the area.

Reports

Secretary

The Minutes of the March 10, 2022, meeting were unanimously approved. Scott Hanley moved to approve; Paul Knowlton seconded.

Treasurer

FY2023 Tree Commission Budget – Sheila presented a new format and reviewed the current and proposed allocations for each of the Commission's 2022 accounts. Paul Knowlton suggested that we request money to plant more trees since there appear to be plenty of spots for new trees in the City. Sheila explained that in years past, the planter made it clear that he could only manage a certain number of trees, so that we would need to find more planting vendors in order to increase the number of trees planted.

Sheila will send an updated draft of the budget for members to review.

The Commission authorized the figure of planting 40 trees in Fall 2022 and 40 trees in Spring 2023 and to request up to \$30,000 from DPS to fund these plantings.

Spring and Fall Planting 2022

Spring orders for the purchase and planting of the new trees have been completed. Purchase orders are being sent to three nurseries to purchase a total of 43 trees. The vendors are: Northeast Nurseries – 12 trees at a cost of \$2095.25, Bigelow Nurseries – 28 trees for \$4,733, and Kaknes Landscape Supply– 3 trees for \$616.38. Sheila reported that Paul Harrington confirmed that in addition to planting and watering in the new trees, our planting vendor, Plants & Pleasantrees, will install gator watering bags and mulch the pits for the first time, for a total cost of \$8,555. The planting date has not been set yet but will take place between May 1 and June 30.

The RFP for the watering of 180 trees this spring and summer will be sent out shortly.

Sheila also reviewed the results of the Bromfield East and West teams which designated thirty-nine potential sites. Of those sites six are designated with nine trees for this spring's planting: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1lSoukZVfgksx-eH30BWZdSk1JLdhGlsE7aXwDWSAa1g/edit?usp=sharing>

There was discussion around how many trees to plant in the fall, the planting process, appropriate timing for Dig Safe and resident complaints about trees, i.e., roots affecting sewer lines, squirrels, leaf drops. Scott Hanley suggested keeping track of sites where tree planting was not successful. Paul Knowlton spoke to the city's right to plant and made the point that these trees will take many decades to reach full growth. Marcia suggested that residents might need some additional information about this and the importance of trees to our environment.

Paul Knowlton will check the bags stored in the DPS shed to make sure that we have the 180 bags needed for this season's weekly waterings. He will inform Sheila of the number of new bags needed for this year so that they can be ordered promptly.

Sheila raised the matter of organizing this spring's pruning and mulching days. Paul Knowlton volunteered to get a truck. Sheila will put together a plan and share details regarding teams, dates, times and equipment needed for these important days.

Education

2022 DCR Annual Arbor Day Poster Contest – Thanks to Sheila's contact with the DCR Urban and Community Forestry State Coordinator who runs the poster contest, an additional 5 Molin student entries will be included in the final calendar. She also recommended a 4/13/22 article about the Newburyport contest entries in wicked local

<https://www.wickedlocal.com/story/record-citizen/2022/04/13/newburyport-students-celebrate-trees-arbor-day-art/7310425001/>

Arbor Day Proclamation – Mayor Reardon will read the Proclamation at 4:00 pm, May 1, 2022, just before the Cantemus concert of *Missa Gaia* at the Belleville Church.

NHS Internship – Sheila was unable to attend the NHS College & Career Center Internship & Career Fair. She will meet with the college counselor at the high school in the next few weeks to explore the possibility of an internship with the Tree Commission.

Grants

Sheila reported that Jane Niebling's grant proposal to National Grid has led to an upcoming National Grid donation. Joe Muraco, the Senior Program Manager in Community and Customer Management at National Grid, has committed to a financial donation to FoNT and Neil Doran, the Merrimack Valley Forestry Supervisor, will donate twenty trees to the Tree Commission to be planted next fall.

Interim Annual Report

Sheila is working on the draft Interim Annual Report. She just received the Tree Warden Report from Jamie Tuccolo and will send the draft report to the commissioners for their input before submitting it to the Mayor.

Twitter

Marilyn volunteered to work with Paul on the Twitter account which Paul has set up. All agreed this might be a perfect activity for an intern.

Motion to adjourn by Scott Hanley, seconded by Paul Knowlton. Unanimous vote to adjourn at 7:05.

Next meeting: Thursday, May 12, 2022 at 6:00 pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Marcia Edson, Acting Secretary