



City of Newburyport Tree Commission

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 19, 2022, 6:30 pm

The meeting convened at 6:35 pm.

Tree Commission members present: Sheila Taintor (Chair), Scott Hanley, Paul Knowlton, Paul Harrington (alternate)

Absent: Marcia Edson, Sue Brown, 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.

Reports

Secretary

The Minutes of the April 14, 2022 meeting were unanimously approved. Scott Hanley moved to approve; Paul Harrington seconded.

Treasurer

There were no expenditures or income during the month April.

Spring 2022

Tree Watering Bags

After checking the bags stored in the DPS container, we purchased a total 50 new DeWitt Dew Right tree watering bags for a total cost of \$711.36. Paul Knowlton will be delivering the tree watering bags to 59 Low Street for Coastal Landscaping to install on the older trees and will coordinate with Tim Lyons where to deliver the bags for the trees being planted this spring.

Paul explained that the bags are stored over the winter in the container behind DPS, and that it is not optimal. He suggested investigating purchasing a small container to hold our bags, which at the very least should be covered since the DPS container leaks.

Watering Contract

The cost of watering trees has gone up from \$8 to \$9. We plan on 15 waterings during the season. 180 trees for 15 visits equals a total of 2700 visits. At \$9/tree our cost is \$24,300.

In addition, this year we are paying our contractor to install the bags on the older trees.

Spring Planting Days: 6/1-6/3

Sheila will plan to shadow the planting crew this year. She will request that the tree labels be left on the trees, to facilitate their inventory and to educate people curious about the new trees. She plans to drop off the year one doorhangers when the trees are planted.

We will need to drop off the doorhangers for trees which have been watered for two full growing seasons and will no longer be watered by us.

Pruning and Mulching Days

Sheila has not had a chance to organize this spring's pruning and mulching days.

Education

The Award Ceremony for the 2022 DCR Annual Arbor Day Poster Contest has been scheduled for Monday, June 6, outdoors at the Molin. As there was no ceremony during COVID for the winner of the 2020 Poster Contest, both she and the 2022 contest winner will be recognized, and two trees will be planted.

NHS Internship – Sheila needs to reschedule a meeting with the college counselor at the high school in the next few weeks to explore the possibility of an internship with the Tree Commission.

Interim Annual Report

The Commission unanimously approved the Interim FY 2022 Annual Report. Paul Harrington moved to approve; Paul Knowlton seconded. Sheila will send it to the Director and Deputy Director of DPS as well as to the Mayor and the Finance Director.

Twitter

Paul Knowlton and Marilyn Cohodas will be working on the Twitter account which Paul has set up, with the goal of Paul passing the account to Marilyn.

New Business

Paul Knowlton mentioned a Green Vase Zelkova planted under the wires last fall on Pond Street near CVS which will need to be removed as it is too large for that spot.

Motion to adjourn by Paul Knowlton, seconded by Paul Harrington. Unanimous vote to adjourn at 8:05.

Next meeting: Thursday, June 9, 2022 at 6:00 pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Sheila Taintor, Acting Secretary