



## *City of Newburyport Tree Commission*

### Meeting Minutes

Thursday, June 9, 2022, 6 pm

The meeting convened at 6:06 pm.

**Tree Commission members present:** Sheila Taintor (Chair), Sue Brown, Paul Knowlton, Paul Harrington (alternate)

Absent: Marcia Edson, Scott Hanley, Jamie Tuccolo (Tree Warden, ex-officio)

**Public in attendance:** Jeremy Pymonto, 30 Storeybrooke Road

### **Open Time for Residents**

Jeremy Pymonto attended the meeting at the recommendation of Mayor Reardon. He is a recently retired engineer and interested in giving back to the City after living here for 30 years.

### **Election**

Paul Knowlton has agreed to serve as vice-chair and was elected unanimously to the position. Nominated by Sue Brown, seconded by Paul Harrington.

## **Reports**

### **Secretary**

The Minutes of the May 19, 2022 meeting were unanimously approved. Sue Brown abstained since she had been absent. Paul Harrington moved to approve; Paul Knowlton seconded.

### **Treasurer**

The Commission accepted the May Treasurer's Report. There was only one invoice submitted during the month of May from Coastal Landscaping for installing the tree watering bags on our year two trees and watering all those trees.

### **Spring 2022 Planting**

Trees from Bigelow Nursery were delivered to the Parks Department at 59 Low Street on Tuesday, 5/31. There were several difficulties with the Bigelow delivery. It included a black tupelo which had been canceled. It was not included on the invoice, but we will keep it and pay for it. There were also multiple Armstrong maples, and several mislabeled Red Sunset maple trees. Bigelow is planning to come and check the maples for us on Saturday, 6/11.

The planting days were scheduled for 6/1-6/3. Plants and Pleasantrees brought the trees from Northeast Nurseries on Wednesday, 6/1 and started planting them that day. Sheila shadowed the Plants and Pleasantrees planting crew this year. Due to heavy rainfall they couldn't put in a full day Wednesday or plant on Thursday, but worked a long day on Friday.

Since not all the pits had been dug and a tree and a stump had not been removed from their pits, the crew did not work Monday 6/6 or Tuesday, 6/7, and Wednesday and Thursday (6/8, 6/9) were rain days. They plan to finish up on Friday, 6/10.

Sheila dropped off the year one doorhangers as the trees were planted.

The addresses of residences with trees entering their third year were divvied up into sections of town, and commissioners signed up to drop off the doorhangers for trees which have been watered for two full growing seasons and will no longer be watered by us. Sue Brown will deliver to the addresses in the South End; Paul Knowlton, the West End and the North End on the Low Street side of High; and Sheila will ask Marilyn to do the North End on the river side of High.

### **Fall 2022 Planting**

There are currently 26 trees on the list to be planted in the fall, which include 6 trees donated by Jim McCarthy.

### **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 took place outdoors at the Molin on Monday, June 6. Two trees were planted to honor this year's state winner, Emmeline Baptiste and the 2020 contest winner, Emma Burkhardt. The entire fifth grade attended and was very supportive of Emmie. There was a wonderful article, *A tree grows at Molin*, in the 6/8/22 Daily News.

NHS Internship – Sheila met with Aaron Ribaud-Smith, the college and career counselor at the high school, to explore the possibility of an internship with the Tree Commission.

### **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.

Sheila is going to send 4 designs for a Tree Commission logo which were created by Edith Heyck, for the Commission to consider.

### **Old Business**

Paul Knowlton brought up the 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. Sheila said she had contacted Jeff Esche to ask about moving a tree but has not heard from him yet. She will also ask Tim Lyons, Plants and Pleasantrees

Motion to adjourn by Paul Knowlton, seconded by Paul Harrington. Unanimous vote to adjourn at 6:58.

**Next meeting:** Thursday, July 14, 2022 at 6:00 pm

Respectfully Submitted,  
Sheila Taintor, Acting Secretary