



City of Newburyport Tree Commission

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 9, 2021 Zoom meeting

Meeting convened at 6:02 pm.

Tree Commission members present: Constance Preston (Chair/Treasurer), Sheila Taintor (Vice Chair/Secretary), Sue Brown, Paul Bevilacqua, Scott Hanley, Paul Harrington (alternate), Jamie Tuccolo (Tree Warden, ex-officio)

Public in attendance: Marcia Edson, 11 Salem Street; Paul Knowlton, 37 Middle Street; Jim Shaw, 5 Pond Street

Open time for residents

Jim Shaw was looking for an update on the privet removal which he had brought up at our August meeting. Connie Preston said that shortly after that meeting, the Planning Dept said they hadn't given permission for the hedge removal. Jamie Tuccolo confirmed the privet was a hedge, not a tree. He did drop by and believes the hedges are on private property. Jim Shaw stated the land was since surveyed and he and the other neighbors believe it was city property. Connie repeated that since the privet are not trees and are not on a street, this is not a Tree Commission matter.

Marcia Edson introduced herself to the Commission. She has lived in the South End for 34 years with her husband and 2 grown children. She recently retired from Boston University as an early childhood professor in the School of Education with a specialty in science education. She is an inveterate gardener, interested in our work, and wants to support nature and trees.

Reports

Secretary

Paul Bevilacqua wanted to make sure we have money to purchase, plant and water the trees for the subsequent calendar year. Connie answered that although the Tree Commission's budget is only guaranteed for the current fiscal year, our budget provides for the watering for planted trees for two years. Trees planted in the fall are watered in as part of the planting but their regular watering starts the following spring. Thus trees planted in the fall and those planted the following spring are watered for the same 24 months.

The Commission unanimously approved the Minutes of the August 12, 2021 meeting.

Treasurer

The August Treasurer's Report was accepted.

Tree Warden

Tree Warden Jamie Tuccolo reported that Lance Rickard is on the tree truck every day completing an ongoing list of work orders. Lance receives 10 orders at a time and when they are completed, gets another batch.

The outside contractor comes once or twice every other week to grind the stumps of removed trees. Thirty of the 98 stumps have been removed, leaving 68 to do.

Planting / Watering

- The 201 street trees on the watering list were watered three times in August. A fourth watering was cancelled due to rainy weather. Coastal Landscaping inquired about extending watering beyond September. Connie let them know that it will depend on the weather but they are prepared to water if we request it. The first two waterings in September were also canceled.
- The Fall 2021 planting list is finalized at 45 trees. There are currently 25 trees on the planting wait list. We had planned 50 trees for Fall 2021 so there will be funds for 5 trees in Spring 2022.
- All tree planting sites have been marked and dig safe checks have been requested.
- There will be 11 cement cuts (DPS) which have also been ordered. The planting vendor will need to build 9 brick tree pits @ \$50.
- Paul Harrington submitted the requests for bids to 3 nurseries and 3 planting vendors on September 8.
- On August 17 Connie and Sheila met with Marcia Edson as a potential new tree commissioner. She was asked to attend our next meeting.

Consultation on Development Projects

There were no consultations on development projects in August.

Grants/Donations

Jane Niebling submitted a grant application to the Bromfield Trust (due today 09 Sep) and will explore grant applications with IFS and the Newburyport Bank. Other grant deadlines are: CPC, Feb 2022 and the Cutter Trust, Jun 2022.

Jane and Connie discussed other grant options. Since we have not been successful with those in the past, Connie does not feel it's worth applying to them. The CPC's current focus is Fuller Field and Track – also not historic. Sue Brown mentioned that the track falls under the open space umbrella of CPC.

Education Nothing to report.

Community Outreach Nothing to report.

Old Business

Recruiting new Tree Commissioners

Scott Hanley's & Paul Bevilacqua's terms expire 01 Nov 2021. Both intend to continue on the Tree Commission and will submit their paperwork.

Paul Bevilacqua has been talking with someone in process of retiring. This person has lots of grant experience and seems to be interested in the Tree Commission. Paul will follow through with her to apply.

Both Paul Knowlton and Marcia Edson are considering applying. Connie and Paul Bevilacqua offered to share templates of application letters.

New Business

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sheila Taintor, Secretary

Next meeting via Zoom: Thursday, 14 October, 2021 at 6 PM

Note: This meeting was rescheduled for 25 October, 2021 at 6 PM.