**Meeting Minutes**

Monday, October 25, 2021 Zoom meeting

Meeting convened at 6:15 pm.

**Tree Commission members present:** Sheila Taintor (Vice Chair/Secretary), Paul Bevilacqua,Scott Hanley,Marcia Edson

**Members Absent**: Constance Preston (Chair/Treasurer); Paul Harrington (alternate); Sue Brown; Jamie Tuccolo, Tree Warden, ex officio

**Public in attendance:** There was no public attendance.

**Reports**

**Secretary**

The Commission unanimously approved the Minutes of the September 9, 2021 meeting.

**Treasurer**

The Treasurer was not present. She submitted information in advance which was accepted by the Commission.

**Tree Warden**

There was no update since Tree Warden Jamie Tuccolo was not present.

**Planting /Watering**

There was no report.

**Update on Grant Writing**

Sheila reported that Jane Niebling, grant writer, is working on a grant proposal to submit to National Grid by 11/1 for in the $5000 to $20,000 range for special projects.

The CPC has requested a quarterly report on the use of the current grant for Gateway II. Connie Preston will submit this report.

**Education**

Sheila reported that MA DCR has announced their annual poster contest for 5th graders across the Commonwealth. The poster theme for the year is: “Be A Cool Community - Plant A Tree!” Sheila is contacting fifth grade teachers at the Molin, River Valley Charter, and Immaculate Conception about participating with their students as in the past.

**Community Outreach** Nothing to report.

**Old Business**

**Recommended Street Tree List**

Sheila provided an update on Recommended Street Tree List, previously updated in 2018. Jean Berger, Cris Miller, Dave Dylewski, Byron Getchell, Sue Brown and Tim Heatwole have agreed to work on updating our List. Currently there is a list for large and small trees (to fit under power lines). They contain the botanical/common names, and whether the trees are native and salt tolerant. Sheila would like to add more native trees to the lists and consider drought resistance and branching habit as well.

**Planning for Succession**

Sheila noted that with the election of Connie Preston to the City Council and her resulting resignation from the Tree Commission, the Commission will have only four voting members and one Alternate as Paul Bevilacqua was not reappointed by Mayor Holaday. The Ordinance specifies seven Voting and two Alternate members to provide the breadth of experience and skills which the Commission has always had to draw upon for its activities.

Sheila announced that Mayor Holaday and Connie will attend the November meeting of the Commission to explain and describe changes which they propose for the Tree Commission.

The meeting adjourned at 6:47 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Bevilacqua, Commissioner

Next meeting via Zoom: Thursday, November 11 is the scheduled date, but Sheila will check on whether this needs to be rescheduled because of Veteran’s Day.