



## *City of Newburyport Tree Commission*

### **Meeting Minutes**

Thursday, 18 November 2021

Zoom meeting

Meeting convened at 7:03 pm.

**Tree Commission members present:** Connie Preston (Chair and Treasurer), Sheila Taintor (Vice Chair and Secretary), Scott Hanley, Marcia Edson, Sue Brown, Paul Harrington (alternate)

**Tree Commission members absent:** Jamie Tuccolo (Tree Warden, ex-officio)

**Public in attendance:** Paul Knowlton, 37 Milk Street

#### **Secretary**

The Commission approved the Minutes of the October 25, 2021 meeting.

#### **Treasurer**

The October Treasurer's Report was accepted.

#### **Tree Warden**

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

#### **Planting**

Connie reported that the Fall 2021 planting of 44 trees took place between October 19-21. Plants and Pleasantrees built 9 brick pits and DPS made 11 cement cuts for tree pits. There was a hitch in the watering in of the new trees. Plants and Pleasantrees normally waters in the trees the day they are planted using the DPS water wagon and our water, but the fittings on the wagon had corroded and the water wagon could not be used. The Parks Department watering wagon is too small, so Coastal Landscaping did the watering on October 23. That expense is reflected in the October financial report.

The trees from Bigelow Nurseries, which had been stored at Colby Farm Lane, initially suffered from the delayed watering, but have all recovered nicely now.

The water bags on all trees were removed by two teams - Cris Miller and Dave Dylewski, and Paul Knowlton and Paul Bevilacqua, and have been stored in the container at DPS for the winter. Paul Knowlton mentioned that he had missed retrieving 2 bags, and now has them at his house. Connie also has several tree bags.

There are currently 37 trees on the Spring 22 planting list. As there are enough funds to cover only 23 in Spring 2022, the TC will need to consider a free cash proposal or delay the planting of some trees until the new fiscal year.

## **Grants/Donations**

In addition to the Bromfield Trust grant for \$3200 mentioned by Connie, Sheila said that Jane Niebling submitted a grant to the National Grid Foundation for \$13,000 to plant 20 trees this coming spring. Sheila will ask Jane to submit her invoice for this grant.

## **Old Business**

### **New Commissioner**

Paul Knowlton submitted his resume and letter of interest to the Mayor to join the TC and met with the Mayor on November 16. The first and second readings will be on 11/29 and 12/13, so the current Council will be able to vote on his nomination to the Tree Commission.

## **New Business**

### **ACES Tree Plaques**

ACES (Alliance of Climate and Environmental Stewards) has proposed a project to “increase public awareness of the importance of trees and share knowledge about the connections between species specific to the region.” This project is an offshoot of a similar project which took place along the Indian Hill Reservoir roadway in West Newbury. It will involve working with local students to research, write and design plaques for tree species in Atkinson Commons that would provide botanical information, detail any historical significance, etc.

Connie asked Sue Brown to consider working on this project because of her previous involvement with the tree project at the Nock Middle School. Sue said she would consider it.

### **Tree Commission Ordinance**

Connie reported that she had submitted her proposed changes to the Tree Commission Ordinance to the Tree Warden. If he decides to proceed with this, he would present his version to the Tree Commission for approval. If approved, it would then go to the City Council for their approval.

### **Moving forward**

Sheila mentioned that former Commissioners Cris Miller and Dave Dylewski, who continued doing significant work for the Tree Commission after leaving, now wish to totally step down. They have added the trees planted each spring and fall to the inventory, have mulched (and staked when necessary) those trees, put the water bags on new and year 2 trees in the spring and removed them in the fall. We will need to assume responsibility for those tasks in the future.

Scott Hanley volunteered to take over the inventorying of new trees. Sheila will contact MVPC to get him the access to the Tree App and Cris Miller will train him inventorying the 44 trees planted this fall.

We will discuss the other tasks to be done in the December meeting.

This was Connie's last meeting and the Commissioners wished her well in her new position as Councilor at Large, starting in January.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Sheila Taintor, Secretary

**Next meeting:** Thursday, 9 December, 2021 at 6 PM