

City of Northampton, MA
Urban Forestry Commission (UFC)

Date January 6, 2021

Meeting Minutes

Submitted By: Debora Laizer

Meeting Called to Order

Richard Parasiliti Jr., Ex-officio Chair called the meeting to order at 4:32 p.m. and announced that this virtual meeting would be recorded to the Cloud via the Zoom platform.

Members present and absent/introductions:

Member	Present	Time if arriving late or leaving early
Richard Parasiliti Jr., Ex-officio Chair	X	
Susan Lofthouse, Vice Chair	X	
Marilyn Castriotta	X	
Molly Hale	X	
Jennifer Werner	X	
Rob Postel	X	4:36 p.m. arrived
David Lukens	X	
	X	
Staff & Visitors	Present	Time if arriving late or leaving early
Debora Laizer, DPW Clerk	X	
Christina Petersen, Visitor	X	
Nili Simhai, Visitor	X	

Public Comment

- Nili Simhai, from Abundance Farm gave a presentation on Our Root Go Downs. Events and campaigns based on the Jewish Holiday Tu B'Shvat (a holiday for trees) is celebrated on January 27th. The Our Roots Go Down website and hashtag campaign includes a tree map, stories that members of the community can add in, links to Tree Speaks and The Great Bicycle Tour. Nili was invited back in early February to give a longer presentation to the UTC.

Florence Streetscapes Public Forum Meeting

- Rich announced that there is a public forum meeting on Florence Streetscapes today at 5:30. If everyone would like to attend then todays UPC meeting would need to end for 5:30.

Review/approve minutes December 16, 2020 UPC meeting.

- A motion was proposed, seconded and a roll call vote was taken. There was no further discussion.

Motion	Motion By:	Seconded By:	Vote:
To approve the amended 12/16/20 meeting minutes.	Molly Hale	Jennifer Werner	Yes 7, No 0, Abstain 0

Review/approve minutes December 14, 2020 subcommittee meeting.

- A motion was proposed, seconded and a roll call vote was taken. There was no further discussion.

Motion	Motion By:	Seconded By:	Vote:
To approve the 12/14/20 meeting minutes.	Molly Hale	Richard Parasiliti	Yes 2, No 0, Abstain 1

Review/approve minutes December 09, 2020 subcommittee meeting.

- A motion was proposed, seconded and a roll call vote was taken. There was no further discussion.

Motion	Motion By:	Seconded By:	Vote:
To approve the amended 12/09/20 meeting minutes.	Molly Hale	Richard Parasiliti	Yes 2, No 0, Abstain 1

Chair/Tree Warden Report

- A copy of the Proposed Changes to Central Business District and Florence Business District Streetscapes & Public Shade Tree Installation was emailed to UTC member. This zoning ordinance or regulation is going to be rewritten and a new draft should be received before the end of the month. When the revisions are completed this should be added as an agenda item.
- Rich will send a link for the Annual Tree Warden Gathering to all UPC members.

UFC 2021 Goals & Objectives

- Molly Hale created a spreadsheet which was shared with the UTC members based on Tree City Activities Listings. Listed below are highlighted activities that are not necessarily ongoing that may be explored.
 - Arborist Exchange (A13) – Susan is working with Eastern MA, this may qualify.
 - Department Accreditation (A14) – Molly to research if this is already accredited.
 - Urban Tree Canopy Assessment (B1) – Check with Wayne on LIDAR survey based on elevation. Verify with Molly Freilicher that this can be used.
 - Tree Inventory Portion/Street Tree Survey (B6/B7) – 2021 ¼ mile survey in Leeds.
 - Forest Health Assessment (B11) – Preventative things to do for invasive species such as the spotted lanternfly.
 - Species List and Public Tree Care Guide (C2, E11) – Update our current guide.
 - Policy & Plan Updates (C6) – Working on updating STO.
 - Single Issue Plans (C8) – Possible planting plan for cut-throughs to calm traffic.
 - Tree Planting Programs (D1) – Evaluate how neighborhood tree planting program is going.
 - Utility Tree Care (D10) – Rich to check with National Grid (TCIA Accredited Utility Contractor).
 - Tree Debris Recycling (D15) – Wood chips to the public (ongoing).
 - Urban Wood Organization (D17/18) – Heavy wood/firewood policy (explore further).
 - Service Organizations (E7) - Work together with a service organization to build community forestry project such as Our Roots Grow Down.
 - Volunteer Coordinator (E9) – Vicki is a nonpaid Coordinator that oversee volunteers. This can be used for 2020.

Significant Tree Ordinance

- Tabled to the next meeting.

Spotted Lanternfly Update

- Tabled to the next meeting.

Ongoing Project Status

- Tabled to the next meeting.

Any other business not anticipated by the Chair.

- Tabled to the next meeting.

To Do List

- Tabled to the next meeting.

- A motion was proposed, seconded and a roll call vote was taken. There was no discussion.

Motion	Motion By:	Seconded By:	Vote:
To table remaining items from the January 6, 2020 meeting to the January 20, 2020 meeting and adjourn at 5:30 p.m.	Susan Lofthouse	Rob Postel	Yes 7, No 0, Abstain 0

- A motion was proposed, seconded and a roll call vote was taken. There was no discussion.

Motion	Motion By:	Seconded By:	Vote:
To adjourn.	Jennifer Werner	Susan Lofthouse	Yes 7, No 0, Abstain 0

Meeting adjourned at 5:33 p.m.