

City of Northampton, MA
Urban Forestry Commission (UFC)

January 4, 2021

Meeting Minutes

Submitted By: Richard Parasiliti Jr

Meeting Called to Order

Richard Parasiliti Jr., Ex-officio Chair called the meeting to order at 3:00 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	
Sue Lofthouse	X	
David Lukens	X	
Staff & Visitors	Present	Time if arriving late or leaving early
Christina Peterson	X	

Public Comment

- None

Significant Tree Ordinance

- David recommended that we review the ordinance and make the most realistic changes given the political realities, such as lowering the DBH & stiffening the mitigation to create a disincentive for removal of trees or an incentive for preserving trees.
- Christina recommended that we review the existing ordinance and see if we could change things that were discussed at the last UFC meeting. The changes such as lowering the DBH threshold and examining how conflict is resolved between the office of Planning & Sustainability and the Planning Board when it involves trees covered under the STO.
- Rich recommended that one other change he would like to add is that an applicant that comes before the Planning Board would be required to complete a tree inventory. This inventory would be completed by a certified arborist that would identify all trees on the site over the DBH threshold.
- Sue recommended the subcommittee review the STO in its entirety, line by line. This will help us in identify areas that may need to be changed.
- The subcommittee reviewed the ordinance and will study the following:
 - Reduce the DBH from 20” to 10”.
 - Implementing stronger mitigation requirements.
 - Requiring an applicant to provide a tree inventory from a certified arborist.
 - Changing some of the language to reflect the current Tree List & Planting Guidelines & industry standards.
- Christina volunteered to mark up an STO word doc with track changes. She will incorporate the changes and send out the document for the subcommittee to review.

Any other business not anticipated by the Chair

- Nothing new to add.

To Do List

- Dispensed to next 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 adjourn.	Rich Parasiliti	David Lukens	Yes 3, No 0, Abstain 0

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.