

City of Northampton, MA
Urban Forestry Commission (UFC)

Date 1/18/23

Meeting Minutes

Submitted By: Bonnie Netto

Meeting Called to Order

Richard Parasiliti Jr., Ex-officio Chair called the meeting to order at 4:34 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	
Molly Hale	X	
Jennifer Werner	X	
Rob Postel	X	
David Lukens	X	
Staff & Visitors	Present	Time if arriving late or leaving early
Bonnie Netto, DPW Clerk	X	
Carole Horowitz	X	
Devorah Levy	X	
Abdulaziz Hanif	X	
Gaby Immerman	X	
Diedre Muccio	X	
Jackie Balance	X	
Jordan Friede	X	
Darcy Sweeny	X	
Miles	X	
Kent & Gile	X	

Public Comment

- Carole Horowitz mentioned a Zoom webinar on February 1st, called The Nature of Oaks
- Deidre Muccio mentioned that on Warfield Place there are no trees at the house on the corner. She was wondering why none were planted there.

Review/approve minutes January 4, 2023 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 meeting minutes.	Molly Hale	David Lukens	Yes 6 , No 0 , Abstain 0

Chair/Tree Warden Report

- Regarding the Warfield Place corner property, Rob talked to the owner and he did not want any trees planted. The curb is the edge of the public right away, which makes the lawn area private property so there is nothing we can do.
- On February 2, 2023 there is a Public Shade Tree Hearing at 367 Coles Meadow Road. The applicant is requesting permission to remove two (2) trees in the public right of way. The other surrounding trees will remain untouched.
- Rich attended the two day Massachusetts Tree Wardens' & Foresters' Annual conference in Sturbridge, Massachusetts. There were four hundred and fifty people (450) in attendance, eighty (80) were students, and thirty (30) were vendors. Rich would like to have one of the speakers give a presentation at one of our meetings. His name is Professor John Rogan from Clark University and Rich has already reached out him.
- Nancy Buley from JF Schmidt & Son gave a presentation about new tree cultivars that have been propagated. They are also working on tree species cultivars that are good pollinators. She may do a presentation for us at a future meeting.
- Rich and Sue will be meeting with Kent Johnson regarding the tree canopy data collection. They will have an update the next meeting.
- Rich was nominated and elected as Vice President of the Massachusetts Tree Warden's & Forester's Association for the next two years.

Significant Tree Ordinance (STO)

- Carolyn Misch accepted our changes to the STO.
- The next step is a meeting with the Mayor to discuss the proposed changes and ask for her support. Rich will request a meeting and will give us an update in the near future.

Goals/Objectives for 2023 Continued

- We went over the goals from the last meeting and the 2022 goals list.
- Jen suggested we rank the goals and then delegate.
- Molly will work on cleaning up the spreadsheet to show which goals are in process and ongoing. Which ones have been done, and which ones need to be done. She will add 2023 goals to the list as well.

Spring Planting

- We will start planting fifteen to twenty trees a week, usually around the end of April. Rich thinks we may want to look at planting early this year as we have had such a mild winter. We cannot do bare root planting early, but we can start planting with the inventory we already have in stock. David said we already have stock and site planned, so early planting is a good idea.
- There is a big checklist of things to do to get ready for plantings on school properties. We need to meet with school representatives, have them approve the locations and then determine the planting dates. No planting can be done when school is in session. It may be possible to plant during school vacation, which is April 17-21, 2023. Bareroot stock should be available at that time.
- We will try to coordinate a planting with the Rotary Club like we did last year. Susan suggests one site per day as she doesn't feel we can do a good job if we are spread too thin across multiple sites.
- Jen met with the Leeds School Principal and parents. They compiled a list of trees and will do a walk around and Chris Chamberlain will make maps as needed.

Arbor Day Seedlings Selection/Event

- Rich emailed everyone the seedling list for 2023. It included pre-bagged seedlings but we usually do not purchase them.
- We will get six hundred (600) as we did last year. The Commission chose: Hackberry, Paw Paw, Serviceberry, Frasier Fur, White Oak, and Tulip Poplar. We will get a hundred (100) of each species for distribution.

Any other business not anticipated by the Chair

- No prospective Commissioner on the horizon. If anyone is interested they should fill out a form at the Mayor’s office.
- We are an Advisory Committee, we have no real power but we do have a voice.
- Everyone has a list of things they are working on for 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 adjourn.	Jennifer Werner	Rob Postel	Yes 6 , No 0 , Abstain 0

Meeting adjourned at 5:57 p.m.