

City of Northampton, MA
Urban Forestry Commission (UFC)

Date February 15, 2023

Meeting Minutes

Submitted By: Bonnie Netto

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	
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	
Kent	X	

Public Comment

- None

Review/approve amended minutes February 1, 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.	Rich Parasiliti	Molly Hale	Yes 5 , No 0 , Abstain 1

Chair/Tree Warden Report

- Kent can easily do an analysis with the tree data he was given. The geocoding will be a little more difficult. He needs to know what geographical areas. Molly will connect with him to provide him with information about these areas. Once the data is organized, we can do tables or pie charts
- Rich said there were no objections at the Public Shade Tree Meeting. He received a check for the mitigation for the trees, which will be deposited into the tree fund.
- Sue emailed everyone about the Community Tree Conference and invited members to go.
- Rich has been in contact with Professor Rogan from Clark University and is hoping he will join one of our meetings in March.
- We have planted a little over 1,960 trees from 2015-present. This year, 267 trees were planted around the city
- Sixty-nine (69) trees were removed this year by the City. Rich keeps track of the size, type, location, and year.
- The Tree City Application has been submitted
- Rich met with the Students from the Conway School. They are trying to formulate two ordinances, one is similar to our Significant Tree Ordinance, and one is similar to the Public Shade Tree guidelines. Rich shared with them a copy of our Significant Tree Ordinance and the Public Shade Tree Regulations. They need to have their base presentation completed by March. They are getting information from other communities as well.

Goals/Objectives for 2023 (continued from last meeting)

- Molly shared the spreadsheet that had been updated with information and ideas from the last meeting. Members talked about the tasks, assigned people and will discuss again at the next meeting. The spreadsheet is also available in the shared drive.
- The last Lidar survey was done in 2017-2018. The City paid for this survey and they also “piggyback” on surveys done by other government agencies since they use satellites and have detailed information.
- Members want to know when the study prior to 2017 was done. Rich will look into this and report back at the next meeting.
- There was discussion about how to recycle wood such as possible firewood. Rich explained that we already offer wood chips. Everyone agreed to keep things as they are.

Tree Selection Criteria for Public and Setback Planting Document

- Commission approved the document Jen made and Rich will discuss with Karyn Nelson to get it posted on the City website. Once that is done, it can be posted on Tree Northampton’s website

Spring Planting/Arbor Day Update

- Jen and Rich met with Leeds school. The plan has changed a bit so a map was sent to the School Department for final approval. There will be 18 trees and planting is set to happen on April 22nd. Jen is working on a blurb for the school newsletter. She will also email Barbara Devlin about volunteers from the Rotary Club.
- David suggests letting Tree Northampton know as well. School plantings are a little more difficult. He is worried having too many volunteers with no knowledge will make thing more difficult. Suggested setting up a second planting site and split the volunteers across the two sites.
- For Arbor Day, Jen said Northampton High School students are a go for bagging the whips. We should receive delivery on April 24th or 25th
- Devorah Levy is working on an information/care sheet to distribute with the whips to make survival rate even better for residents.
- Rob would like to start planting a week or two before the Leeds planting so we have everything set up and rolling before then. We could use the trees we currently have that are at Spring Grove.
- Rich asked David to check with his PTO contact person to see if they could help with watering some of the trees we won’t be able to access at Leeds. There are six (6) trees that will not be accessible during the day to our trucks as the gates to get behind the school are locked.
- We will keep this as a running agenda item for 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 adjourn.	Susan Lofthouse	Jennifer Werner	Yes 6 , No 0 , Abstain 0

Meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.