

City of Northampton, MA  
Urban Forestry Commission (UFC)

Date March 1, 2023

Meeting Minutes

Submitted By: Bonnie Netto

**Meeting Called to Order**

Richard Parasiliti Jr., Ex-officio Chair called the meeting to order at 4:33 p.m. and announced that this virtual meeting would be recorded to the Cloud via the Zoom platform.

Members present and absent/introductions:

<b>Member</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Time if arriving late or leaving early</b>
Richard Parasiliti Jr., Ex-officio Chair	X	
Susan Lofthouse, Vice Chair	X	
Molly Hale	X	
Jennifer Werner	X	Arrive 4:40 pm
Rob Postel		
David Lukens	X	
<b>Staff &amp; Visitors</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Time if arriving late or leaving early</b>
Bonnie Netto, DPW Clerk	X	
Professor John Rogan	X	
Jackie Ballance	X	
Devorah Levy	X	
Kent	X	
Diedre	X	Arrive 4:40 pm
Jordan Friede	X	Arrive 4:50 pm

**Public Comment**

- None

**Review/approve minutes February 15, 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 4 , No 0 , Abstain 0

**Chair/Tree Warden Report**

- Significant Tree Ordinance is not on the next City Council Agenda. Rich will ask the Mayor if it is being presented on March 16, 2023
- Rich and Kent spoke about the tree planting data. There are still a few more pieces to add and then Kent will give a presentation at one of our meetings.
- Molly would still like to get data to Kent about the geographical areas we are really curious about, such as Elm Street and Pleasant Street.
- Since 2015 about 2,000 trees were planted so it will be interesting to see how we have impacted our tree population throughout the city.

**Guest Speaker Professor John Rogan, Clark University**

- Professor Rogan gave a presentation on Urban Tree Planting Efforts to Mitigate Heat Island Impacts and Foster More Resilient and Equitable Cities in Massachusetts and Rhode Island.
- The presentation was representing work he has done with his colleague Deborah Martin and student volunteers.
- They have been doing this for many years and have built a database from cities and towns across the state. The geography department at Clark University is in its one-hundredth year. Another milestone we have is that the human environment, regional observatory, or “HERO” program is about to enter its twenty-fifth year.
- There are (3) three steps of approach they use
  1. List of research questions
  2. Site assessment approach
  3. Interview Approach
- Mapping helps prove how important tree canopy is mitigate heat island impacts
- Thirty-five to forty percent tree canopy is the threshold in which the heat island effect is mitigated.
- After the presentation, Rich asked if Professor Rogan could do a study of Northampton

**Any other business not anticipated by the Chair**

- None
- A motion was proposed, seconded and a roll call vote was taken. There was no discussion.

Motion	Motion By:	Seconded By:	Vote:
To adjourn.			Yes 5 , No 0 , Abstain 0

Meeting adjourned at 6:02 p.m.