

City of Northampton, MA
Urban Forestry Commission (UFC)

Date April 5, 2023

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	
Kent Johnson	X	
Rich Parrish	X	
Jacqueline's iPhone	X	
Carole Horowitz	X	
Diana Scott	X	
Jacqueline Balance	X	
Devorah Levy	X	
Jordan Friede	X	Arrive 4:35pm
Abdulaziz Hanif	X	Arrive 4:56pm

Public Comment

- Jackie thanked Bonnie, Karyn and Rich for fixing the meeting link.

Review/approve minutes March 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.	Molly Hale	Jennifer Werner	Yes 5 , No 0 , Abstain 1

Chair/Tree Warden Report

- National grid requested a Public Shade Tree Hearing to remove a 34” red oak on River Road in Leeds. There is no date set yet and they are already aware of mitigation fees. Rich said it is a tree that may fail in the future due to its roots and how it is situated.
- Rich presented at a Salem Massachusetts tree committee meeting. He gave a power point on our tree initiative, what we have learned, what we have done well, and what we have not done well. He talked about proper tree planting. Salem hired a contractor to do planting for them and fifty (50)

percent of the trees were planted too deep. Committee members talked about how there is not enough certification in this field. Only real certification covers pesticides. Anyone can call themselves a “landscaper” and then many things are not planted correctly.

- Rich has been invited to speak in Cummington on April 27th on the topic of Utility Tree Removals and Trimmings
- Massachusetts tree warden seedling program. They are about to hit thirty thousand seedlings.
- There is an open meeting at 9:30am on Friday, April 7th taking place in Rich’s office. He will send out an invite and the agenda. Anyone can attend.

Guest Speaker Kent Johnson: Presentation on Northampton Land Cover Change 2001-2019

- Kent shared a report from the National Land Coverage Database (NLCD).
- The website that has this information is on the [Multi-Resolution Land Characteristics Consortium \(MRLC\)](#). It is a great tool for seeing how areas are classified. You can add or subtract different layers to show only the information you want to see.
- The most recent data is from 2019. They plan to release updated data from 2022 soon.
- Kent used this data to break information down into the four categories we were most interested in. The categories were rural, suburban residential, urban residential and business/industrial. He showed the land cover in these areas. He shared slides of loss of forest.
- A link to his presentation is [Northampton land cover change 2001-2019](#)

Arbor/Earth Day Tree Planting/Whip Giveaway

- Earth Day is April 22nd. Barbara Devlin from the Rotary Club is going to be the “funnel” for volunteers. There are approximately 30 volunteers. Planting will be at Leeds School and overflow planting will be at Village Hill.
- The Energy and Sustainability Commission is starting a new pilot program and may be giving away seed packs and information about pollinator plants. Rich will follow up on that.
- Rich has secured bare root stock. Amherst nurseries is still in the works. No information yet.
- The whip giveaway will be on April 29th.
- Jen and Molly had a meeting about the Spotted Lanternfly. They were the only two there as no one from the public showed up. They will have information to give out at the Whip giveaway. Molly still has a lot of follow up work to do. She wants to contact MDAR and find out how best we can make use of our volunteers.

Any other business not anticipated by the Chair

- Rob Postel is retiring. It will be a big loss and he will be missed. We will have another opening to fill on the committee. He did such great work during his time with the Urban Forestry Commission.
- 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	Rob Postel	Yes 6 , No 0 , Abstain 0

Meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.