

City of Northampton, MA
Urban Forestry Commission (UFC)

Date April 19, 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 | |
| Jay Girard | X | Left 4:56pm |
| Deidre's iphone | X | |
| Kent Johnson | X | |
| Rich Parrish | X | Arrived 4:39pm |
| | | |

Public Comment

- NONE

Review/approve minutes April 5, 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 | Susan Lofthouse | Yes 6, No 0, Abstain 0 |

Chair/Tree Warden Report

- Public Shade Tree Hearing for River Road is not scheduled yet. Rich will be away on vacation so he will probably schedule it for the third week in May.
- Jen sent everyone an email regarding the public hearing for the Twenty-five percent design review for Main Street which is scheduled for April 26th, 2023. The designs are available on the Planning and Sustainability website. Rich plans on attending because he would like to hear what people have to say. He has questions after reviewing the species selection. The design shows that there are very few of the existing trees on Main Street that are remaining; in fact, he could only find one. These are being removed for the sidewalk, or the dedicated bike lane. They are adding a few trees to the King Street area. Projected timeframe of the project is 2025-2027.

- Rich wants to see if he can be assured they can order tree stock at the beginning of the project and have the nurseries hold onto the trees until they are needed because often by the end of a project when trees are ready to be planted, the nurseries are low on stock and do not have the actual trees that were chosen in the design plan.
- Jay Girard joined tonight’s meeting. Molly had asked him if he was interested in rejoining the Commission. He was one of the original founding members in 2016.
- Rich Parrish has joined the commission though it is still in process. The Mayor is guessing mid-May.
- Rob’s last meeting is tonight.

Educational Outreach Subcommittee on Spotted Lanternfly

- Any future meetings must be either audio or video recorded. Molly and Jennifer will write up minutes from the March 28th meeting and submit to Bonnie.
- Our mapping of Ailanthus trees is a good start. We may want to approach neighbors who have these trees so we can
 - Educate about the Spotted Lanternfly
 - Ask residents to monitor their trees
 - Allow volunteers to inspect the trees
 - If it is a male tree, use as a trap tree
- Information will be handed out to residents at the whip giveaway

Arbor/Earth Day Tree Planting/Whip Giveaway

- Whips will be given out in front of City Hall on Friday April 28th (from 8-4) and Saturday April 29th (8-12). Representative Sabadosa will be there for publicity. Volunteers are signed up but two shifts are still available. High school students are preparing to bag the whips.
- The weekend of April 22nd, Bartlett Tree is giving away 1000 whips.

Any other business not anticipated by the Chair

- The order from Amherst Nurseries is for 113 trees and is \$18,000.00.
- We took delivery of bare root stock. Had to send a Kentucky Coffee tree back and they replaced a missing tree with a species we didn’t want so we sent that back too.
- The goal is to deliver all the tree stock Friday for our Saturday planting
- Village Hill planting may be difficult due to the roots from current trees that are there.
- For school watering it would be helpful to solidify partnerships with parent volunteers. A cart may be needed to help get water to the trees.
- Everyone thanked Rob for his time on the 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. | Jennifer Werner | Molly Hale | Yes 6, No 0 , Abstain 0 |

Meeting adjourned at 6:03 p.m.