

City of Northampton, MA
Urban Forestry Commission (UFC)

Date June 7, 2023

Meeting Minutes

Submitted By: Bonnie Netto

Meeting Called to Order

Richard Parasiliti Jr., Ex-officio Chair called the meeting to order at 4:37 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	
David Lukens	X	
Richard Parrish	X	
Staff & Visitors	Present	Time if arriving late or leaving early
Bonnie Netto, DPW Clerk	X	
Kent Johnson	X	
Jordan	X	Arrive 5pm

Public Comment

- None

Review/approve minutes March 28, April 7, April 19th, 2023 meetings

- 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 as amended.	Susan Lofthouse	Molly Hale	Yes 6 , No 0, Abstain 0

Chair/Tree Warden Report

- While out of town, Rich saw many of the species of trees in Tennessee that we have recently planted here. He said that they are beautiful as mature trees. Unfortunately. He said he noticed most of the trees he saw planted there were planted incorrectly.
- Also while on vacation, Rich visited Chestnut Hill Nurseries where we get all of our bare root stock.
- There was a public shade tree meeting regarding the project on River Road. There were no objections. National grid is paying the mitigation fees.
- We are currently in the process of placing water bags on the trees that were planted in 2022.

Guest Speaker Kent Johnson: Presentation on Northampton Tree Planting and Removal 2015-2022

- Kent presented a report with several different charts showing the tree plantings and subsequent removals for the City of Northampton from 2015-2022.
- 2,052 were planted and 1,941 remain out of those planted.
- This is the link to Kent’s presentation:
http://kentsj.com/Noho/Tree_planting_report_2015-2022.html
- There was much discussion about the possibility of adding and creating a new data set so that we could have even more information. This might give us a better picture of why trees are not surviving and this information can guide us in future plantings. Several ideas came up such as:
 - a) Adding the date the tree was planted and removed instead of just the year
 - b) The weather pattern for the seasons in the year
 - c) Whether the planting was bare root, balled and burlapped, or bagged
- Molly noticed that in Hampshire Heights several large trees have been cut down. She wonders if we can plant trees on that property and get the residents involved as they do not have much shade. Rich believes we could do some setback planting but would have to have Tree Northampton work with the Housing Authority for any other plantings there.
- We should research how to create an Urban Forestry master Plan
- We also should look into applying for grant funding opportunities for tree plantings for next year.
- Committee members will think about other ideas and it will be talked about at the next meeting.

Arbor/Earth Day Event Wrap-Up

- Many thanks were given to everyone for participating in the Arbor Day and Earth day events. Special thanks was given to Barbara Devlin, Vicki Van Zee, and the Northampton High School science class.
- There were 600 whips given away.

Any other business not anticipated by the Chair

- Rich Parrish has been sworn in as an official Commissioner
- Northampton received the Tree City recognition yesterday We have been involved with Tree City USA for 16 years and have earned a growth award for 7 years
- 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	Rich Parrish	Yes 6, No 0 , Abstain 0

Meeting adjourned at 6:04 p.m.