

City of Northampton, MA
Urban Forestry Commission (UFC)

Date July 5, 2023

Meeting Minutes

Submitted By: Bonnie Netto

Meeting Called to Order

Richard Parasiliti Jr., Ex-officio Chair called the meeting to order at 4:30p.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	A: 4:34
Jennifer Werner	X	
David Lukens	X	
Richard Parrish	X	
Staff & Visitors	Present	Time if arriving late or leaving early
Bonnie Netto, DPW Clerk	X	
Devorah Levy	X	
Kent Johnson	X	
Jackie Balance	X	A: 4:35
Chris Rosa	X	A: 4:36

Public Comment

- None

Review/approve amended minutes June 7, 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 6 , No 0 , Abstain 0

Chair/Tree Warden Report

- Rich will be attending the New England International Society of Arborists conference in the fall.
- He will also attend the 2nd World Forum on Urban Forests in Washington DC in October.
- Rich introduced Chris Rosa. He is the Tree Warden in Malden and he joined us to get some ideas and get things off the ground in his City. Currently they have no Urban Forestry Commission. They just started a volunteer program two weeks ago.
- The city has been diligently watering with water bags on new tree plantings. We may put bags on trees planted in 2021, will monitor them and see how they are doing.

Guest Speaker Kent Johnson: Presentation on Northampton Priority Planting Areas 2015-2022

- Kent gave a presentation on the priority planting areas from 2015-2022.
- It was divided into Northampton, Florence, and Leeds.
- Rich feels these presentations will be great to use if we ever go in front of City Council.
- The link to Kent’s presentation is [Priority Planting Areas](#)

Urban Forestry Commission Vacancy

- Rob has officially resigned.
- Jordan Friede has expressed interest. He works in Hartford and is a certified arborist. He has already sent an email to the Mayor.

Any other business not anticipated by the Chair

- Molly said she hasn’t done much in terms of the Spotted Lanternfly. She is feeling defeated, like nothing we do won’t make much of a difference. She hasn’t felt motivated. She asked if anyone had ideas or thoughts. Sue thanked her for the work she has already done. We have a lot of information and data. We could do door hangers or informational sheets at the areas we have already identified. We should all think about how to move forward in a way that makes sense time-wise. Rich will put it on the agenda for the next meeting.
- The city is in three contracts with outside vendors to help with tree work. They will do emergency removal, emergency tree work, and tree trimming.
- 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	Molly Hale	Yes 6 , No 0 , Abstain 0

Meeting adjourned at 5:52 p.m.