

City of Northampton, MA
Urban Forestry Commission (UFC)

Date August 2, 2023

Meeting Minutes

Submitted By: Bonnie Netto

Meeting Called to Order

Richard Parasiliti Jr., Ex-officio Chair called the meeting to order at 4:3p.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	Arrive: 4:53pm
Jennifer Werner	X	
David Lukens	X	
Richard Parrish		
Staff & Visitors	Present	Time if arriving late or leaving early
Bonnie Netto, DPW Administration	X	
Jackie Balance	X	
Jordan Friede	X	

Public Comment

- None

Review/approve minutes July 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.	Susan Lofthouse	Jennifer Werner	Yes 4 , No 0 , Abstain 0

Chair/Tree Warden Report

- Homework quiz was to research Victoria Bismarck. Jackie Balance was the winner of a tree. Victoria Bismarck was agricultural land off of Burts Pit Road that was joined by the Clement Street Bridge. Habitat for Humanity is currently taking down trees there for development.
- There was a Public Shade Tree hearing in May for removal of a 34 inch oak tree at 222 River Road. The tree is still there as it needs approval from Environmental Protection because it is in the buffer zone of the Mill River.
- Our goal right now is to do pruning while we still can. We have Bartlett Tree contracted to do trimming of adolescent and mature trees. There are many over mature trees that need risk mitigation/reduction pruning.
- On Linden Street Rich noticed one of the Linden trees was losing its leaves and the others were fine. He stopped and looked and noticed insects on the bottom of the leaf. iNaturalist identified it

as Lime Felt Gall which has only officially been identified in the United Kingdom. Rich sent it to an Entomologist at UMASS. They asked him to send a cutting to The USDA in Maryland and they will try to identify it.

- Many ornamental cherry trees have died this year due to the cold temps and frost in late May.
- A cherry tree on Lyman Road has to be removed due to the Ambrosia Beetle. It is not worth treating as this stage.

Spotted Lanternfly Discussion

- Molly would like input on our next steps and to develop a plan. It was decided in discussion that MDAR has some great handouts that we can use to notify residents in areas where the Spotted Lanternfly may be. Molly will write a letter to go with the information and Rich will give the Mayor a copy of the letter and let her know the plan. We will include not only residents and property owners, but also businesses and industrial areas that have large trucks frequenting their property. Ideas were Coca Cola, Walmart, the cement company, and supermarkets.

Fall Planting Discussion

- Now that Alicia (Tree Northampton) moved to New Hampshire and Rob moved to Maine, Rich asked the Commission to think about what is next. Who is going to fill their shoes? These two had a great working relationship and managed volunteers, found locations, contacted Dig Safe, took care after care, and much more. Would it be wise for us to take a step back and figure out what role the Commission can best support tree Northampton and also figure out how they can help us.
- Over the winter may be a good time to figure out roles as to who is doing what.
- We should check inventory to see what we have. We should also decide what we want to do before ordering anything.
- The plan is to set up standing Friday meetings. The first meeting will be at Spring Grove Cemetery August 11, 2023 at 9am.

Urban Forestry Commission Vacancy

- Jordan Friede has not been sworn in yet. Rich will check with the Mayor to see when that will be happening.

Any other business not anticipated by the Chair

- A bottleneck for nursery stock is expected. Rich thinks this will happen within the next few years. We are in a good spot now and will put this on the agenda for a future meeting.
- The next meeting is September 6th. Starting September we will be back to two meetings a month
- A motion was proposed, seconded and a roll call vote was taken. There was no discussion.

Motion	Motion By:	Seconded By:	Vote:
To adjourn.	Molly Hale	Jennifer Werner	Yes 5 , No 0 , Abstain 0

Meeting adjourned at 6:08 p.m.