

City of Northampton, MA
Urban Forestry Commission (UFC)

Date September 6, 2023

Meeting Minutes

Submitted By: Bonnie Netto

Meeting Called to Order

Susan Lofthouse, Vice Chair called the meeting to order at 4:30 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	
Richard Parrish	x	
David Lukens	x	Arrive 4:31 pm
Staff & Visitors	Present	Time if arriving late or leaving early
Bonnie Netto, DPW Clerk	x	
Kent Johnson	x	
Jackie Balance	x	Arrive 4:31 pm
Jordan Friede	X	Arrive 4:38 pm

Public Comment

- None

Review/approve minutes August 2, 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.	David Lukens	Jennifer Werner	Yes 6 , No 0 , Abstain 0

Chair/Tree Warden Report

- There has been a request for a shade tree removal on Maynard road. Residents want solar on their house. We may be able to come up with a compromise. Rich will revisit this.
- Rich will email the Mayor regarding the Significant Tree Ordinance. It still hasn't gone in front of the City Council so he will check when it will be presented.

Guest Speaker Kent Johnson: Presentation on Northampton Tree Canopy Report

- Kent gave another presentation on the Northampton Tree Canopy Report.
- The link to the report is: [Canopy Coverage Report](#)
- The link that was shared in the chat at 5:04 pm was : From Kent & Gile : 17:04:45 http://kentsj.com/Noho/Tree_canopy_change_2011_2021.html

Fall Planting Discussion

- Jen, Sue and Rich came up with a plan to capture all DigSafe requests from last year.
- May have a planting Saturday September 9th. We would have to move trees Friday.
- The goal is to clear out all stock from the nursery.
- Jen and Rich met with Alicia. She can help again this fall/winter. She set up a tree tracking spreadsheet.
- An inventory was done of trees we already have, 138 can be planted this fall.
- For bare root planting, there is the possibility of 40 trees on Ice Pond Drive, Moser Street, and Ridgeview Terrace. We will wait until spring and ask for assistance from the Rotary Club.
- Jackson Street and Jackson Street School replacement trees are high on radar. We can replace or substitute almost all of them.

Incorporating Native Shrubs Into The Setback Mix

- For people that are concerned about trees blocking solar, we should offer shrubs or smaller trees. Shrubs and Understory trees still would offer the same benefits of a tree, except there is no real shade. Rich said we are not removing Public Shade Trees for solar. Are shrubs considered ok as far as MGL87, which defines what public shade trees are. The conversation will be continued at another meeting.

Spotted Lanternfly Discussion

- Molly wrote a draft letter to property owners who have Ailanthus trees, asking them to keep their eyes open for any signs of the Spotted Lanternfly and to report any findings to MDAR. Suggestions were to shorten the letter to one page, include the name “Tree of Heaven” as many people know it as that. Everyone should read the letter and have suggestions ready for next meeting.
- We will prepare a list of addresses to send letters to.
- Should we do door hangers?

Any Other Business Not Anticipated By The Chair

- Next meeting is October 18th. Rich will not be here. He and Jordan are taking a class at Holy Cross in Worcester. It is the first Wednesday of every month.
- Molly will not be at the September 20th meeting.
- We will go over the schedules at the next meeting.
- A motion was proposed, seconded and a roll call vote was taken. There was no discussion.

Motion	Motion By:	Seconded By:	Vote:
To adjourn.	Richard Parrish	Molly Hale	Yes 6 , No 0 , Abstain 0

Meeting adjourned at 6:01 p.m.