

City of Northampton, MA
Urban Forestry Commission (UFC)

Date: December 1, 2021

Meeting Minutes

Submitted By: Debora Laizer

Meeting Called to Order

Richard Parasiliti Jr., Ex-officio Chair called the meeting to order at 4:36 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	4:46 p.m.	
Marilyn Castriotta	X		
Molly Hale	X		
Jennifer Werner	X		
Rob Postel	X		
David Lukens	X		
Staff & Visitors	Present	Time if arriving late or leaving early	
Debora Laizer, DPW Clerk	X		
Owen Wormser, Presenter	X	4:41 p.m.	5:09 p.m.
Julie Coop, Presenter	X	5:02 p.m.	5:32 p.m.
Rosemary Malfie, Visitor	X	4:38 p.m.	

Public Comment

- No public comments.

Review/approve minutes from November 17, 2021 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 amended November 17, 2021 meeting minutes.	Molly Hale	Rob Postel	Yes 6, No 0, Abstain 0

Chair Report/Tree Warden Report

- Rich had a follow up conversation with Tool Design on the Main Street Redesign regarding snow removal. Rich will have more information once the design gets a little farther along.
- Rich is still working arranging a Significant Tree Ordinance meeting with Carolyn Misch and the subgroup.

Native Plants/Pollinators & Trees

- Local landscape designer Owen Wormser who has been working with a local nonprofit called Local Harmony which links volunteers and public spaces often in collaboration with municipalities showed examples of existing trees with perennial gardens. Examples shown were in Turners Falls and the Lathrop Community in Easthampton. Planted plugs and raised in ground planters have been used in some of the planting sites. Perennials if chosen correctly and set up properly can work well with existing trees and can be low maintenance.
- Owen will supply the UFC with the plant selection used in the Turners Falls project along with any information on plantings that work best with specific native tree species. Owen offered to continue providing information and perspective on understory plantings, pollinators, and perennials.
- Marilyn suggested looking into bump outs for storm water runoff on Main Street which could be useful with the climate changes and traffic calming.

DCR Urban & Community Forestry Update

- Julie Coop, MA DCR Urban and Community Forestry Coordinator announced Mollie Freilichers replacement is Mathew Cahill who is the new MA DCR Community Action Forester.
- The new edition of Citizen Forester was just recently emailed. This publication has a lot of information on urban and community forestry in this state and beyond. Anyone interested should request a copy. This monthly newsletter may change to a quarterly newsletter.
- Intent to apply for a Challenge Grants letters are due by October 1st. The letter can be as simple a one paragraph description of the proposed grant application. Full proposed Challenge Grant letters must be submitted by November 1st.
 - Grant inventory & tree planting funding has been increased from \$30,000.00 to \$40,000.00. Money could also be used for educational opportunities such as educating a Tree Warden or Tree Committee. Think outside the box like other categories such as setting up a nursery.
 - Grant funding for wood banks has increased from \$2,000.00 to \$4,000.00.
- All 14 of the one-page DCR fact sheets have been updated and are available on the website.
- Marilyn suggested a new fact sheet on the value of trees and vegetation in reducing the impact of climate change. She also suggested an informational sheet for municipalities with photos and contact information on how to make tree planting happen in your community.
- DCR Arbor Day Poster Contest calendars and teacher postcards are available for anyone who would like to help distribute this information. In a couple of weeks Rich will be seeing Julie and he will get some of these materials for the UFC members.

Spotted Lanternfly Update

- Molly has located a video on the method of using some Ailanthus trees as trap trees and getting rid of the other ones. If the video is helpful, she will forward it to the UFC group.
- There are some identifiable Ailanthus trees that do not have any leaves on them in the Agnes Fox playground along the south fence.

Subgroup Reporting

- Marilyn updated her to-do-list.
- Jen will be the lead on redoing the Tree List & Planting Guidelines document, but will probably not be working steadily on it until spring.
- Rich would like to request a grant for an updated tree inventory. The last inventory was done in 2016. Rob stated that we have already planted 20% of our stock.
- Rich will be working on the Tree City USA application which is due by December 31st.

To Do List Update

David

- Work with subgroup on setback door hangers.
- Work with Jen & Rich on Tree Planting & Selection Guide – Spring 2022

Jen

- Tree Planting & Selection Guide (Jen is lead) – Spring 2022

Marilyn

- Identify project to work on during winter months.

Molly

- Update Ailanthus map of areas surveyed.
- Contact UPenn – have other towns eradicated Ailanthus?
- Find arborists who are willing to cut and treat with herbicide Ailanthus trees on private land as public service.
- Develop info/approach/script for landowners who have Ailanthus on their property.
- Enter spreadsheet data L2.
- Create waypoints for L2.
- Do field survey for another Leeds quadrant.
- Enter data on quadrant done by Rich and David.

Rich

- Work with Susan, Rob & Marilyn on door hangers.
- 2020 & 2021 data entry on the master plan spreadsheet - in progress.
- Connect with Sue & Marilyn on crafting Urban Canopy report.
- Coordinate STO meeting with Carolyn, Sue & David - in progress.
- Reach out to subgroup folks to discuss taking the lead position/reporting to STO.
- Request DCR materials for UFC distribution.

Rob

- Work on multiple door hangers.

Susan

- Content & layout next step design for door hangers with subgroup.
- Contact Rich & Marilyn about steps required for the state of urban forest.

Any other business not anticipated by the Chair

- Susan will reach out to UMass professor Rick Harper to see if he has any information on the relationship between pollinators and trees.
- Rich will look at the silver maple tree at 32 Washington Place.
- The two next meeting will be December 15th and January 5th.
- David will keep the pollinator dialog open with Owen.
- Rob stated that more trees were planted in this fall season more than any other fall season.
- David and Marilyn suggested as an educational project that maybe the public could be reeducation on leaf litter.

- 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	Marilyn Castriotta	Yes 7, No, Abstain

Meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.