Meeting Minutes
Submitted by: Beth Willard

Meeting Called to Order
Lilly Lombard, Chair called the meeting to order at 4:36 PM, and announced the audio recording of the meeting.

Members present and absent/introductions:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Member</th>
<th>Present</th>
<th>Time if arriving late or leaving early</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lilly Lombard, Chair</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Susan Lofthouse, Vice Chair</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Arrived 4:41 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Molly Hale</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jennifer Werner</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marilyn Castriotta</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rob Postel</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Lukens</td>
<td>Absent</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Staff &amp; Visitors</strong></td>
<td><strong>Present</strong></td>
<td><strong>Time if arriving late or leaving early</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Parasiliti, Tree Warden</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beth Willard, DPW Clerk</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
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Public Comment
- There was no Public Comment.

Approval of previous minutes
- Minutes were read by commission members.

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To approve Dec.18, 2019</td>
<td>Molly Hale</td>
<td>Jen Werner</td>
<td>Yes 5, No 0, Abstain 1</td>
</tr>
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Chair Report
- NESC presentation
  - Lilly reported the Energy & Sustainability Committee was receptive to her presentation on the PSTC tree program and the value of the urban forest.
  - Her power point presentation will be posted as part of the minutes.
  - They suggested that she present it to the City Council.
- Upcoming presentation to City Council
  - She made the request to Council President Sciarra, and plans to do it in a couple of months.
- Meeting with Bob L. & Laurie S. re “heritage trees”
  - Dave and Lilly met with Bob and Laurie Sanders, who was there as a private citizen.
    - Laurie felt “Heritage Tree” channels people more towards a historic connection for the tree, instead of other significant factors that make the tree important.
    - Lilly was considering a “Notable Tree” data base.
- Laurie felt such a data base should be held by the Tree Warden, not Historic Northampton.
- A report by David was tabled to the next meeting
- Meeting with Carolyn Misch
  - Dave, Lilly and Rich met with Carolyn.
  - They discussed the spreadsheet of research on Significant Tree Ordinances.
    - Lilly will share the spreadsheet with the PSTC members.
  - They discussed how to value trees in general.
    - They looked at the free version of a tree benefit calculator.
      - In practical use, it really undervalued a 150 year old tree.
      - It also underrepresented carbon sequestration.
    - The American Association of Consulting Arborists has a different calculator, which Jen noted uses a number of additional factors.
      - Use of this calculator requires taking training courses.

**Tree Warden Report**
- Gas leaks protocol update/PST Hearing 73 Loudville Road/Lia Toyota/Honda
  - Rich met with Tim Lecuivre, and plans to visit him in Arlington in February to get acquainted with his tree program and protocols.
    - He also plans to talk with the DPW director about protocols and craft some regulations based on them.
  - A Public Shade Tree Hearing was held at 73 Loudville Rd. for removal of 2 shade trees.
    - The White Pine is almost dead, so no mitigation will be required.
    - Mitigation in the amount of $2,700.00 will be required for the 13” White Oak, which has been damaged by utility company trimming.
    - The choice of these two trees saved a much larger White Pine with a large canopy.
    - The developer will be required to protect the rest of the trees.
  - Lia Toyota/Honda severely trimmed the trees in front on King St, and did volcano mulching.
    - The contracted landscaper said it was done by direct order of the business owner.
    - Rich forwarded pictures to Carolyn Misch, as this appears to be a violation of the site plan approval for their special permit.

**Continued: scope of commission, possible name change, coordination with planning**
- Lilly noted that the mission seems to be very much on target, but the name does not.
  - The name “Urban Forestry Commission” seemed more appropriate.
    - Rich saw the title as more representative of what the Commission was doing, but suggested caution concerning the mission.
      - The PSTC operates in an advisory capacity only, and neither it nor the Tree Warden have any power over private property trees.
    - Rich suggested that he explore the procedure of name change through his channels.
  - The discussion of coordination with the Planning Dept. was tabled until the next meeting.

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<tr>
<td>To have Rich pursue the procedure of changing the name of the Public Shade Tree Commission to the Urban Forestry Commission</td>
<td>Jen Werner</td>
<td>Marilyn Castriotta</td>
<td>Yes 6, No 0, Abstain 0</td>
</tr>
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STO updating Report
• Tabled until next meeting.

Arbor Day preparation
• CDH, Senior Center
  o These were the suggested sites for Arbor Day planting this year.
  o Jen has been in email contact with Jonathan Slater on the CDH location.
    ▪ Jen, Rob, and Molly made tree selections, which Rich reviewed and approved.
    ▪ They plan to work on an overlay plan that Jonathan can submit for approval at CDH.
    ▪ 18-20 trees are planned for the site – 13 Large, 2 Medium and several Small.
  o Rich has not yet been in contact with the director of the Senior Center.
    ▪ He and Rob will continue to pursue the Senior Center as a site.
  o CDH will be the main site, with the Senior Center as a backup.
  o The Senior Center is in the Environmental Justice area, and can be planted later as part of the grant.
• Film screening--Eastern White Pine at Historic Northampton (featuring Bob L)
  o Marilyn mentioned that the film was being screened at Arcadia tonight at 7:00.
  o David had suggested featuring it for Arbor Day and Historic Northampton could host it.
    ▪ Marilyn will co-ordinate with Laurie Sanders on it.
    ▪ She will also see if Bob Leverett will be a post-screening presenter.
• Whip distribution--choices?
  o Sue mentioned that TreeNorthampton met with Western Mass Pollinators about the 50th anniversary of Earth Day.
    ▪ She suggested choosing trees to raise awareness of pollinators and the Earth Day anniversary.
    ▪ Jen suggested concentrating on native species.
  o Tupelo, Persimmon, Common Lilac, Black Walnut, and Concolor Fir were chosen.
• School outreach--poster contest
  o Sue re-emailed the elementary school principals about the contest.
• Other education effort?
  o Last year’s letter on volcano mulching to landscaping companies didn’t have much effect.
  o Rich said the DPW Director is willing to do a public outreach mailer tucked into the quarterly utility bills.
    ▪ He suggested an informational card similar to a door hanger about the PSTC and its mission.
    ▪ He will get a deadline for the next mailing, and Marilyn will work on some language.
  o Marilyn suggested running a front page article on volcano mulching in the Gazette for Arbor Day.
    ▪ This idea was tabled for discussion next time.

Neighborhood Planting Project
• Review submitted application
Only one was submitted for 2020 on Dec. 31, 2019.
Rich has been in contact with Kyra Anderson about the Munroe St. neighborhood.
  - The neighborhood includes Munroe St, East St., Lyman Rd., and Hampton Terr.
  - There are about 53 planting locations identified, including setbacks in 5-6 locations.
    - East St. was identified as a good location for setback plantings.
    - Rich will supply the neighborhood with Setback pamphlets.
    - Ken Neiman last year figured he did 85-100 hrs. of work, so Kyra will be encouraged to start tracking her hours.
- Discussion re. promotion and protocol re. neighborhood-based inquiries
  - Molly mentioned that the Grove St. neighborhood was interested last year
    - They felt it was a lot of work to apply, and that the Munroe St. neighborhood had already been selected for this year.
  - Lilly was concerned about the perception of fairness in the process versus maintaining fairness in reality.

**Planting Plan Summary, (no update)**
- Tabled until next meeting.

**Poll of meeting times**
- Tabled until the next meeting.

**Any other business not anticipated by Chair**
- Skipped

**To Do list**
- Skipped

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<tr>
<td>To adjourn</td>
<td>Sue Lofthouse</td>
<td>Molly Hale</td>
<td>Yes 6, No 0, Abstain 0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Meeting adjourned at 5:56 PM.