

City of Northampton, MA
Urban Forestry Commission (UFC)

Date March 17, 2021

Meeting Minutes

Submitted By: Debora Laizer

Meeting Called to Order

Richard Parasiliti Jr., Ex-officio Chair called the meeting to order at 4:34 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 | |
| Marilyn Castriotta | X | 5:30 p.m. |
| Molly Hale | X | |
| Jennifer Werner | | |
| Rob Postel | X | |
| David Lukens | X | |
| | | |
| Staff & Visitors | Present | Time if arriving late or leaving early |
| Debora Laizer, DPW Clerk | X | |
| Maela Whitcomb, Visitor | X | |
| | | |

Public Comment

- No public comments.

Review/approve minutes 3/3/21 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 March 3, 2021 meeting minutes. | Molly Hale | Rob Postel | Yes 6, No 0, Abstain 0 |

Review/approve minutes 1/25/21 subcommittee 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 January 25, 2021 meeting minutes. | Susan Lofthouse | David Lukens | Yes 3, No 0, Abstain 0 |

Chair/Tree Warden Report

- Arbor Day whips will be in the week of Arbor Day.
- A public shade tree hearing request has been received for a two-and-a-half-inch red maple that will be taken down due to a common driveway for a cluster development on Glendale Road. The Planning Board has already approved this. The driveway will be moved to save two larger white oaks. Under public shade tree regulations one tree will be mitigated.
- Last week Rich gave an overview on Northampton's Significant Tree Ordinance (STO) to the Amherst Tree Committee. Amherst would like to apply an STO to all trees 20" or greater on public and private property.

Maela Whitcomb presentation on Evaluation of Carbon in a Tree

- Maela's Evaluation of Carbon in a Tree outlines determining how much carbon is in a tree and how significant that is. Listed below are highlights of her presentation.
 - The background of how carbon that is stored in a tree goes back into the atmosphere when it is cut down.
 - The impact of the carbon market, carbon credits, off set projects for net admissions, and the value of these credits. One credit is equivalent to one ton CO₂ or equivalent greenhouse gas. Currently one carbon credit is at an all-time high of \$28.68.
 - How carbon gets its value.
 - Carbon off set projects such as renewable energy, energy efficiency, forestry, and methane capture.
 - A mature tree stores less carbon than one quarter of what an American produces in one year. The average American produces 20 tons of CO₂ each year.
- Maela will send Rich the FIA-COLE Model (Tree Carbon Calculator) excel workbook for posting on the UFC google drive. This spreadsheet is in a locked format.

Significant Tree & Two Family By-Right Ordinance Update

- Review of Alex Jarrett, Ward 5 Councilor proposed changes to the section 4) Screening of the Two Family By-Right Ordinance. Here are some of the suggestions after reviewing the wording.
 - Under section 2. Rob recommended changing the word ornamental to small. Rich and Carolyn agreed the wording should read: It is shown that even ornamental are small trees from the City's Tree List and Planting Guidelines could not be planted; and.
 - Under section c. Rich would like to remove the word shade.
 - Under section c. Molly suggested changing the wording to: For every tree over 3" in caliper removed for construction, a replacement shade tree of at least 1" caliper selected from the City's Tree List and Planting Guidelines must be planted on the property. When more than three trees are required, a variety of shade trees from the City's Tree List and Panting Guidelines must be selected. The Planning Board may waive the total number of required trees to be planted on site if it finds that it is infeasible to replace all removed trees on site and when:.
- Rich will hold off on sending the STO to Planning & Sustainability until the Two Family By-Right Ordinance is finished.

DCR EJ Grant

- The Economic Justice Grant (EJG) will expire on June 30th and all work must be completed by then. This grant cannot be extended. Here are the UFC options.
 - 1) Do nothing and let the grant go.
 - 2) Full grant includes 50 total trees with 7 in CU soil, the remaining with in the EJ district in the Old South Street neighborhood area.
 - 3) Modify planting scope. Seven trees in CU soil would be dropped. The other plantings identified in the EJ area would happen.
- Rob feels that we have enough trees and volunteers to complete this by June 30th.
- Rich & Rob will do a tree inventory and location staking.
- Rich will send an email to Julie Coop lettering her know the UFC intentions.

UFC 2021 Goals & Objectives & Ongoing Project Status

- The planting site survey for Florence and Northampton has been completed. This survey is stored in the UFC shared google drive. Sorting features can be used to help determine priority trees, quadrants or identifying set back sites.
- Starting the process for verifying set back sites should be added to the next agenda.
- Arbor Day is April 30th. Organizing Arbor Day should be added to the next agenda. Possible projects could be tree planting in front of the Academy of Music and Old South Street Commons. Maela offered to help with Arbor Day activities.
- Susan volunteered to pass out tree whips on Arbor Day.
- Molly suggested planting in the right of way on Park Street.
- Rob would like to promote planting set back trees and planting in the public right of way with no sidewalks. Try to limit planting on salty roads with wires overhead.
- Rich will ask Karen Nelson if it is possible to combine the spreadsheet and shape file to make a GIS map.
- Rich will send a draft of the amended language for the Screening Section of the Two Family By-Right Ordinance update. UFC members should not respond by reply all.
- 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 | Susan Lofthouse | Yes 5, No 0, Abstain 0 |

Meeting adjourned at 6:07 p.m.