May 1, 2019

Meeting Minutes
Submitted by: Beth Willard

**Meeting Called to Order**
Lilly Lombard, Chair called the meeting to order at 4:32 PM.

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></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Todd Ford, Vice Chair</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Arrived 5:16 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Molly Hale</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Jennifer Werner</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marilyn Castriotta</td>
<td>Absent</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Rob Postel</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Susan Lofthouse</td>
<td>X</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></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beth Willard, DPW Clerk</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
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**Public Comment**
- No public comment

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

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<th>Motion</th>
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<th>Seconded By:</th>
<th>Vote:</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To approve April 18, 2019 minutes as amended</td>
<td>Jenn Warner</td>
<td>Sue Lofthouse</td>
<td>Yes 5, No 0, Abstain 0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Chair Report**
- Lilly recognized & thanked the members for their hard work in the past year, and especially over the last week for Arbor Day activities.
- Todd Ford’s term completion & resignation
  - He submitted his resignation to the Mayor, effective at the end of the fiscal year.
- She also announced that DCR had awarded full funding ($30,000) on the grant application.
  - We are the only community to receive more than a $20,000 grant from them.
  - The grant lasts until June of 2020.

**Tree Warden Report**
- Rich mentioned that the Massachusetts Tree Wardens’ and Foresters’ Association Executive Board will be meeting at 10:30 AM May 8 at Lilly Library.
This will be followed by a tree planting ceremony in Park St. Cemetery at 11:30.
Lunch will be at JJ’s Tavern after the tree planting.

- Anyone interested in attending the luncheon should contact Rich.

- He received an $8,000 mitigation check from Habitat for Humanity for the trees on Glendale Rd.
- Rich reported that 63 trees had been planted in a week, of which 59 were bare root trees.
- He is putting together a master list – the current data is scattered in multiple locations.
  - Karen and Rich are working on a team drive on Google for the PSTC, which can be a repository for data.
- He has received a couple of requests for the Set Back brochure.

**Draft Ordinance 18.231 discussion**

- Rich distributed the latest version worked out with Carolyn Misch.
  - This version still has to go to Alan Seewald for review.
- For replacing trees, Molly worked out calculations for the number of 1” trees that would fill a 20” circle representing a 20” diameter tree – a total of 40.
  - Replacement of trees does not consider the leaf canopy, only the volume of the tree trunk.
- Lilly noted changes made in this version.
  - On the first page: Allowed by right – roof and accessory ground mount systems to 12 KW.
    - A limit to exclude commercial operation in those zones was desired, and a 2 acre limit for a permit was settled on, referenced on page 3 in #6.
      - Areas above 2 acres in these zones generally would not receive a permit.
      - Pockets of development within these zones could receive a permit.
    - The zones listed are mostly located in the western part of Northampton.
- Molly found the calculations in 3A and 3D possibly redundant and confusing.
- Molly questioned if the goal was to restrict large scale PV developments in Northampton.
  - Lilly believes it is, as research is showing a PV heat island effect that is more dramatic than an urban heat island.
- Lilly would like to see the same restrictions applied to residential development, so these regulations are no stricter than that of other types of development.

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<tr>
<td>To approve the ordinance as amended in this copy of the ordinance.</td>
<td>Molly Hale</td>
<td>Sue Lofthouse</td>
<td>Yes 6, No 0, Abstain 0</td>
</tr>
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- Lilly also would like to strengthen the Significant Tree Ordinance, using the same model.

**Arbor Day Debrief**

- Sue noted the heroic effort everyone put in to make the event come off so well.
- 59 bare root trees were planted from Wednesday through Sunday.
- Almost 500 whips were given out.
- There were more than 50 volunteers working the event, and many did more than one shift.
  - A number of political hopefuls and members of government attended and/or volunteered.
- They went out into Ward 7, and found there was a lot of interest there.
• Molly felt the whole thing was well organized.
  o Sue saw leadership as the key.
• Jenn said that planting bare root trees was significantly different from other plantings, there were lots of questions, and everyone learned a lot.
  o Todd was impressed – the bare root plantings he saw were all planted perfectly.
  o Rob noted that a key factor was the support of the DPW, who were right there when needed with mulch and water.
    ▪ He mentioned that the hard work and budget considerations of the DPW were appreciated by the PSTC.
    ▪ Lilly suggested thank you notes to the DPW director might be in order.
• Sue said she will need more people for Saturday’s planting on Trumbull Rd.
• Lilly asked about the letters that went out to the landscaping/tree companies.
  o Rich said there was no response.
• Lilly felt the tree tour went well, and would like to expand it.
  o Forbes Library thought it was great.
  o NPR covered it.
  o Madeleine was really pleased with the response.
• Rob pointed out the enormous effort required to run planting simultaneously with Arbor Day.
  o One alternative is next year, do plantings on Earth Day and whip handouts on Arbor Day.

Other Regulation Issues
• Trench Permit Tree Protection Language
  o Molly felt a balance was needed between the actual replacement cost and what is politically do-able.
  o Rob felt that the leaf crown might be more important in the formula than the trunk diameter, but quantifying it is much more difficult.
  o Lilly pointed out currently the replacement for a 24” tree is $2,160.
    ▪ The formula puts it at $5,700 or 57 1” trees.
    ▪ If the formula did not max out at 20”, then the 24” tree would require 576 1” trees or an ungodly sum of money.
  o Rich pointed out that all of it will be passed to Alan Seewald for his comments.
  o Todd recommended to go with what we have, and perhaps support it with the analysis.

Tree Commission website review and proposed edits
• Todd felt it needed review, and asked everyone to check it out and suggest improvements.
  o He also wanted to know if there was additional material that needed to be on it.
• Lilly noted that there was some duplication of materials, suggesting materials that refer to things in the purview of the Tree Warden be split off to his page.
  o The PSTC page should be items such as minutes, agendas, the 5 year plan, 1 year plan and a map showing what has been worked on.
• Sue noted that the website is hard to use.
• Rich suggested that a template of changes desired be created, and he can then get it to the DPW Director and feed to Karen to put on the website.
• Molly asked about the Davey Tree survey, which Lilly said is located on the Tree Warden page.

**Presentation of Annual Tree Planting Prioritization Plan and Map**
- Todd felt it needed to be condensed into a single document with a map and priorities of the year, so it can be easily displayed on a website and printed as a handout, and the information is easily digested.
- Lilly mentioned the need for an annual summary/year in review sort of thing to cover FY2019.
  - Rich mentioned that he had done a 3 year summary for Director LaScaleia.

**Natural Gas reader purchase update and associated Enforcement/Notice Policy**
- Rich is still working on getting in touch with the company to order.
- Todd felt there is a need to think about how data collected is used and tracking that chain of use.
  - He also questioned if and how we notify the utility of a leak when found.
  - The city should consider what the policy is, how it is enforced, and what the penalties will be.
- Lilly suggested creating a subgroup to explore these issues.
  - Todd and Jenn will be part of the subgroup.

**Tree Northampton update**
- Sue noted that planting season is here, but that there was nothing additional to report.

**To-do List re-cap**
- Lilly – reminded everyone to check the website. She will send a thank you to Donna LaScaleia, check with the Sunday planting group, prepare a summary for City Council, and send an endorsement of the draft to the Planning Dept.
- Molly - will do the same thing for the 2018 plantings that she prepared for previous years, and sort by native/non-native.
- Sue – will send a thank you to Donna LaScaleia, check the website, and email Molly & Jenn about Saturday.
- Rob – will plant trees and focus on getting repeat volunteers.
- Todd – will get the trench permit language changes to Alan Seewald for his comments, start in on the natural gas policy, and check the website.
- Rich – will order the gas detector, check the website, edit the draft for the trench permit, and plant with Rob.
  - He also reminded the PSTC of the Tree City Ceremony on May 29, 2019.
    - He can bring guests, and will email the flyer to everyone.
- Jen – will check the website, plant trees, text Sue, and send a thank you to Donna LaScaleia.

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Meeting adjourned at 6:32 PM.