June 5, 2019

Meeting Minutes
Submitted by: Beth Willard

**Meeting Called to Order**
Lilly Lombard, Chair called the meeting to order at 4:35 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></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Todd Ford, Vice Chair</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
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<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>X</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></td>
<td></td>
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<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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<tr>
<td>Rosie Li, Public</td>
<td>X</td>
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**Public Comment**
- Rosie Li, an international student at Smith College, complimented the PSTC on its work. She is working on her senior thesis, and is volunteering with both Sue & Rob’s tree planting groups.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Motion</th>
<th>Motion By:</th>
<th>Seconded By:</th>
<th>Vote:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To approve May 15, 2019 minutes as amended</td>
<td>Todd Ford</td>
<td>Rob Postel</td>
<td>Yes 6, No 0, Abstain 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Chair Report**
- Summer schedule: July 3, Aug 7
  - The only meetings where a quorum can be established are on July 3 and August 7, so those are the only currently scheduled meetings.
- Recruiting/advertising new PSTC opening
  - Lilly approached George Kohout, who declined.
  - Molly approached Dillon Sussman, who felt he had a possible conflict, and wasn’t certain if he had enough time. Lilly will reach out to him.
- Website proposed edits, submit to Rich
  - People are still working on ideas to submit to Rich.
• Proposed big Tree Bike Tour
  o Lilly attended the Bike Breakfast.
  o She discussed the idea of a Big Tree Bike Tour and they are interested in it.
  o George Kohout responded that he has someone interested in co-organizing it.
  o It can be built on TreeSpeak, and we can potentially identify some great trees in Florence.
  o They are looking for a date.
  o The PSTC was in favor of the proposed tour.
  o Lilly will get the proposed dates and report back.

Tree Warden Report
• Tree City USA Award --report
  o Lilly, Marilyn, Jen and Rich attended.
  o Rich noted that there were 87 Tree City USA communities in Massachusetts.
  o This is the third year Northampton received a growth award.
  o The keynote speaker, Kevin Smith, spoke on the value of large mature trees.
  o DCR Commissioner Leo Roy urged Tree City communities to network with non-Tree City communities.
    ▪ Lilly suggested developing a sister city relationship with Easthampton.
  o Rich, Mollie Freilicher and Alan Snow are working on getting multiple tree commission/committee and tree warden meetings sited in the western Massachusetts area, in an effort to tie all these groups together somehow, and perhaps spark more interest.
  o Gov. Baker was at the 20,000th tree planting ceremony.
    ▪ He challenged communities to plant 20,000 more, and is committed to funding them.
  o Lilly cautioned against articulating trees as the sole tool as climate change protection or as an offset to biomass.

Updating the Significant Tree Ordinance
• Todd said it was currently in a holding pattern, pending review by the City attorney of the formula used – the one also used for the Trench permit update.
  o Rich has not yet submitted the changes to the DPW director, as she is has been involved in FY2020 budget preparations for City Council.
  o Lilly asked Todd to put his suggestions in writing for the PSTC.

Climate Resilience Plan – inserting our recommendations into the plan
• Todd noted that trees are largely absent from the document – mentioned only briefly and in very general terms.
  o He sees the opportunity for the PSTC to add detail.
  o A caveat could be added to the section on solar arrays.
• Lilly will let Carolyn Misch know that the PSTC reviewed the document and would like the procedure for making recommendations.
  o Todd suggested referencing the urban forest and setting specific goals for a net gain year-to-year in the overall canopy and/or number of shade trees.
    ▪ One possibility is inserting a reference to planting a certain number minimum of shade trees per year.
○ He also suggested perhaps some regulatory changes, such as:
  ▪ Requiring developers to plant more trees when they develop parcels,
  ▪ Mandating/increasing the shade requirement for parking lots, which could be potentially waived if the parking lot goes solar, and
  ▪ Encourage solar on rooftops and in parking lots.

○ Todd noted that most goals were very broad and there were few specifics.
○ Lilly asked Todd to put his suggestions in writing & forward them to the Commission.
○ Lilly will get a timeline on this from Carolyn Misch.
○ Rich suggested a letter to the Mayor instead of dealing directly with the Planning Dept., as the PSTC advises the Mayor.
○ Lilly asked that everyone work on it before the July 3rd meeting.
○ The Plan would become a chapter in the City’s Master Plan.

**Election of officers**

○ Todd nominated Lilly for Chair, which was seconded by Marilyn; and Marilyn nominated Sue, which was seconded by Jenn.
  ▪ As there were no other nominations, Lilly closed nominations and opened discussion.
    ▪ The candidates discussed their qualifications, their role, and the role of the PSTC in the near future.
  ○ A vote on the Chair position was held, with Lilly garnering 5 votes and Sue 2 votes.
○ Molly nominated Sue for Vice Chair, and Jenn seconded the nominations.
  ▪ Todd moved that nominations be closed, and Molly seconded it.
    ▪ As there were no other candidates, Sue was elected unanimously.

**Planting/Tree Northampton planting**

○ Rob will be planting 10 trees this Saturday, leaving 10-15 in the nursery to be planted over the rest of the season.
○ He mentioned 4 middle school students joined the Wednesday planting group on May 16.
  ▪ Their participation is part of their class time that is dedicated to community service.
  ▪ Rob sees it as very important to get them involved.
  ▪ There is also a group of kids coming to plant on Saturday.
○ Sue mentioned that she had a contact with the Ecology Club at Northampton High School, and will pursue that possibility for getting kids involved.

Lilly presented a card from the PSTC to Todd as a thank you for his service on the Commission.

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<tr>
<td>To adjourn</td>
<td>Todd Ford</td>
<td>Molly Hale</td>
<td>Yes 7, No 0, Abstain 0</td>
</tr>
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Meeting adjourned at 5:40 PM.