October 16, 2019

Meeting Minutes
Submitted by: Beth Willard

**Meeting Called to Order**
Lilly Lombard, Chair called the meeting to order at 4:34 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>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lilly Lombard, Chair</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Susan Lofthouse, Vice Chair</td>
<td>Absent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Molly Hale</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jennifer Werner</td>
<td>Absent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marilyn Castriotta</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Arrived 4:38</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rob Postel</td>
<td>X</td>
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**Staff & Visitors**

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**Public Comment**
- There was no Public Comment.

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

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<th>Seconded By:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To approve Oct. 2, 2019 minutes as amended</td>
<td>Marilyn Castriotta</td>
<td>Rob Postel</td>
<td>Yes 4, No 0, Abstain 0</td>
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**Chair Report**
- **Presentation to NESC**
  - Wayne Feiden made a presentation on the draft Climate Plan.
  - The NESC commissioners had some concerns with it.
  - Lilly ceded the time allotted for her presentation so that the commissioners could further discuss the Climate Plan.
  - She encouraged them to come up with a position on the plan.
  - The commissioners plan to have a working group to summarize their position on the Climate plan.
    - Lilly offered her help to them as a private citizen.
• She read the PSTC position in the Public Comment period, and felt it was positively received by the NESC.
  ▪ Rich noted the absence of the Urban Forest from the plan.
  ▪ Lilly mentioned the PSTC recommended goal of a 40% canopy coverage in the downtown area.

• **Reminder, future meeting at Forbes Watson Room until further notice**
  o Lilly said it was Nov. 6 at the Watson Room, located at Forbes Library on the mezzanine level at the back of the building.

• Lilly reported the Great Tree Bicycle Tour is scheduled for Oct. 20, 2019 and urged everyone to register for it.

**Tree Warden Report**

• Rich reported that he, with Lilly, Sue, Alicia, Susan Roy, and Jay Girard, attended the forester meeting on Oct. 7.
  o The City of Northampton received three awards, which is rare.
    ▪ Mollie Freilicher was responsible for the nominations.

• The Park Hill Rd. Public Shade Tree Hearing will be Oct. 17, 2019 at 5 pm.
  o There are 59 trees to be removed.
  o The developer has agreed to a $39,300 mitigation settlement.

• A future Public Shade Hearing is also planned for 29 Ford Crossing.
  o A Honey Locust Tree planted in the right of way will need to be transplanted or possibly removed for a driveway access.

**Gas leaks statement - draft**

• Director LaScaleia will be meeting with the Mayor tomorrow, and gas leaks hopefully will be discussed, as it dovetails into the City Council resolution about gas in the city, and trench permits in the city which been placed on hold due to the DPU shutdown.

• Rich suggested that the PSTC draft their concerns and forward them to the Mayor.
  o Lilly noted the number of leaks that she and a gas expert found in the survey area were twice the number reported by Columbia Gas.
    ▪ They found a Grade 1 leak in the survey area.
    ▪ One of the leaks noted was in the critical root zone of a newly planted tree.
    ▪ The gas expert that she worked with has a connection to the coalition of which Lilly is a member.
      ▪ The facilitator for the coalition has a personal connection to the Mayor.
  o She also hopes to let the Mayor know how this information could be distributed to other municipalities and tree professionals statewide.
  o Marilyn suggested mentioning the new gas detection meter.
  o Lilly mentioned developing a new protocol for evaluating planting sites which will utilize the detection meter.
  o Lilly suggested that she could draft a statement based on this that could be submitted to the Mayor.

**Mollie Freilicher, DCR, state-level updates**

• Greenway Cities update
Mollie, in conjunction with Julie in Boston, is working with the Tree Commissions of different municipalities.

- Gas Leaks have led to a call for a national urban forest webinar/webcast on the subject.
  - The idea has been well received.
  - Webinars happen monthly.

- Urban Forest Canopy –
  - Mollie noted that Lidar is best, but is very expensive.
    - She suggested trying a program offered on ITree, and described how it can be utilized, and will forward information on it.
    - Molly said she would like to look into it.

- Arbor Day Poster Contest
  - The contest for Arbor Day 2020 has been posted on the DCR website.
  - Marilyn noted the poor response in the past from Northampton schools and asked how to stimulate interest.
    - Mollie said that connecting with teachers is very important.
  - She passed out literature on the contest, all of which is posted on the website.
  - A ceremony is held for the winning school, and the DCR does a tree planting with them.
  - All participating schools receive science supplies from the state.

- Champion/Legacy Tree program
  - The program recognizes not only champion trees, but also trees that are significant for other reasons.
    - This is now on the website.
    - A nomination form is also on the website.
    - A statewide data base is in the works.

- DCR grants
  - There was a record number of applications this year

- DCR resources available
  - Climate Change response framework
    - There is a website tool adapted for the urban forest.
      - The Chicago Urban Forest Assessment deals with situations that are not very different from the urban forest here.
      - There is also a version for the New York/New England area available, and she gave the website information for it.
    - Tree traits are important considerations in climate change response.

**STO update**

- Lilly mentioned David Lukens was interested in helping, and she plans to bring him up to speed.
- She would like help in looking at how other municipalities around the country protect their trees.
  - Mollie Freilicher suggested reaching out to the USFS for data on models if they have them.

**Fall planting update**

- Rob planted the 100th tree for the fall planting today.
- He expects to reach the goal of over 300 trees for the year.
• Delivery of 40 bare root trees is expected the last week in October.
• The tree nursery has been a great help, as it allowed more flexibility.
• Marilyn asked about the 1000th tree planting.
  o Lilly plans to contact the Mayor and get dates that he would be available, hopefully between Oct. 28 and Nov. 3.
  ▪ Rich suggested a morning planting in the Prospect St. neighborhood, in order to highlight the Neighborhood planting program.
  ▪ Rob suggested a Wednesday, Saturday, or Sunday planting, in the 9:30 – 10:00 range.
  ▪ When all details are in place, Lilly plans to draft a press release.
• Lilly passed around a picture of a Willow Oak seen in Washington DC., which she saw as a very impressive tree for an urban setting.
  o Mollie Frielicher mentioned that there are specimens now in Eastern MA and New York.
  o There is also a specimen in the Smith Botanic Garden.

Any other business not anticipated by Chair
• Lilly mentioned that she, Molly and Marilyn should start thinking about next year’s planting.
  o They need to review what was accomplished this year, and see how everything aligns with the overall plan.

To Do list
• Lilly will try to contact the Mayor and coordinate with Rich and Rob on the 1000th tree planting, prepare a press release for it, and put together the bullet points on gas leaks to send to the Mayor.
• Rich will contact Ben Weil of the NESC to give the PSTC a modified version of the talk he did for the forester’s dinner.
• Molly is planning to look into the Cooley Dickinson Hospital project with Jen, investigate the ITreecanopy website and meet with Mollie Freilicher on it, get the tree data and work with Lilly and Marilyn on it.
• Marilyn is planning on doing the bike tour on Sunday and will get the word out on it, check out the Willow Oak at Smith, go to the 1000th tree planting, look at the resources from Mollie Freilicher, and push the Arbor Day poster contest.
• Rob hopes to plant until the tree root balls freeze – possibly until Thanksgiving.

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Meeting adjourned at 6:00 PM.