

TOWN OF SWAMPSCOTT
TREE COMMITTEE MINUTES

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The Tree Committee held a public meeting in person on Thursday November 16, 2023 beginning at 6:30 pm. The meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Meeting location: Elihu Thomson Administration Building, 22 Monument Avenue, Swampscott, MA 01907, 1st floor conference room

Members Attending		Town Officials
Jim Olivetti, Chair	Ana Nenshati	Gino Cresta, Director of DPW and Tree Warden (Ex-officio) Public: Suzanne Hale
Jennifer Honig, Vice Chair	Brian Drummond (absent)	
Richard Frenkel	Tara Gallagher	
Verena Karsten	Robert Levy	

Item	Person Responsible
General Items	
1. Minute taker assignment	Tara
2. Public comment (first 10 minutes of every meeting) - none	Jim
3. Approval of minutes from October 19, 2023 - approved	Jim
4. Administrative topics for tree committee <ul style="list-style-type: none">December Minute taker - JimJen will chair the December meeting	Jim
5. Publicity/communications ideas <ul style="list-style-type: none">Eagle Scout tree inventory project covered in November newsletterRichard will add an intro sentence and send gift fund poster and url to tree gift fund to newsletterGirl Scouts did recent microforest planting and posted about it on social mediaSuzanne Hale will be working to put microforest info on Conservancy website. She will write something up for town newsletter in April.In Jan or Feb Tara will do a summary for newsletter of planting and take downs for 2023 noting how species have changed.	Richard
6. Updates from the Tree Warden <ul style="list-style-type: none">Tree Removals & Plantings DPW received \$526.42 for a damaged street tree that was deposited in the Tree Gift Fund.Planted 25 trees and have a serviceberry and pin oak leftover (one for Orchard Circle and one for cemetery)Lost three large trees on Shaw Road recently so need to add that street to our list	Gino

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Request to remove cement recently added to tree base at train station ● Tree wells & asphaltting -- need to standardize 3 X 5 well for trees ● Tree at Columbia and Burrill needed better coordination with streetscape project to avoid asphaltting first, then removing asphalt to plant. 	
Tree Planting and Conservation	
<p>7. Fall Planting – Review</p> <p>Planting went well. Got larger caliper trees this time. Will have better opportunity for ordering more tree diversity in spring. Aim for mid-April ordering; need to put review of “Approved Street Trees” list on February agenda.</p>	Ana/Gino
<p>8. Tree Preservation Bylaw – update</p> <p>Need to meet with Building Commissioner. Reviewing Lynnfield bylaw and their implementation forms. They have a role for the Planning Board as well and an exemption process. Gino will ask BC to reply. Jen will write steps in order and bring that to the meeting.</p>	Jen
<p>9. Memorial Arboretum re-dedication – update</p> <p>Trees have been planted and plaques installed. Envision rededication ceremony on Memorial Day weekend. Engage Molly Connor from Historical Society; also talk with Historical Commission. Plaques not associated with trees could also be displayed. Brian and Rob will help.</p>	Verena
<p>10. Capital appropriation request for public trees</p> <p>Chair of CIC inquired why TC doesn’t submit a capital request for public trees every year. 50 trees planted/year is probable maximum with current manpower. Could ask for more and contract out planting. Jim will circulate support letter for our review.</p>	Gino
<p>11. Vinnin Square design guidelines</p> <p>Committee should review the document and identify what we like, what should be standards, and what we don’t like. We are interested in seeing more natural landscaping and less focus on trees as screening. Members should provide input to Jim by Dec. 5th. Suzanne noted we could look at the Somerville Green Standard/ Native Plant Ordinance.</p>	Jim/All
<p>12. Linscott Beech takedown – Timber + Salt document ideas – postpone until December meeting.</p>	Gino/Jim
Tree Inventory	
<p>13. Database status report - postponed</p>	Richard
Other Business	
<p>14. Planning Board Site Plan Special Permit – role for Tree Committee - postponed</p>	Jim
<p>15. Jim circulated DCR Grades 3-5 art class tree-themed 2025 calendar contest. Suzanne will spread the word.</p>	

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16. Beech with amputated arms: Ana advises partially amputated limbs should be pruned in late February back to the trunk so that beech is not open to disease. Further conversation in December with Gino.	Jen/Ana
17. Confirmation of next meeting date. December 14 th at 6:30 pm.	All