

**TOWN OF SWAMPSCOTT  
TREE COMMITTEE MINUTES  
Nov 1, 2022**

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm. Meeting adjourned at 8:02 pm.

Meeting location: Elihu Thomson Administration Building, 22 Monument Avenue, Swampscott, MA 01907, 1<sup>st</sup>-floor conference room

Members Present		Town Officials
Verena Karsten, Chair	Jim Olivetti	Gino Cresta, Director of DPW and Tree Warden (Ex-officio)
Richard Frenkel	Brian Drummond	
Jennifer Honig	Tara Gallagher	

Item	Person Responsible
<b>General Items</b>	
1. Minute taker assignment	Richard
2. Public comment (first 10 minutes of every meeting)	None received
3. Minutes from 10/03 were approved	
4. Administrative topics for the tree committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Membership – Jim introduced Rob Levy who is interested in possibly joining the committee</li> </ul>	Jim
5. Updates from the tree warden <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Gino provided the Committee with both the October 13th Tree Hearing minutes and the tree removals/plantings list from September 9th through October 31st.</li> <li>● At the DPW, Steve Kemp has taken over tree trimming duties from Gene Gardner while he is absent.</li> <li>● The large tree at 16-18 Columbia Street may need to be taken down, Gino will be in touch with the National Grid arborist.</li> <li>● The Elm planted at 140 Burrill was accidentally planted on the wrong side of the street and should be moved to the other side, in front of 143 Burrill, or another tree planted there.</li> <li>● The large red oak at 38 Thomas Road has a split in the bark and Gino is having an arborist assess it. He will let us know what the arborist says.</li> <li>● Cicoria contract work at Town Hall (DCR grant). They have billed for soil testing, but we don't have a report. We also need them to provide a 3-year maintenance plan which is a deliverable to satisfy the grant. <b>Action Item:</b> Gino will follow up with Cicoria.</li> <li>● Town Hall tree mulching – Gino is planning to install mulch after tree planting. Questions as to appropriate depth will need further research.</li> </ul>	Gino

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Fall tree planting – 25 trees will arrive Thursday and planting will commence Monday, Nov 7. Some of these trees will be planted at Town Hall as part of the DCR grant.</li> <li>● Three trees are to be planted at the updated intersection of Walker and Banks, Monday, Nov 7 at 7:30 AM.</li> <li>● Forestry budget request for Y2023 – Tara has drafted a letter requesting an additional annual funding for contract urban tree management and a separate request to increase the current budget item for contract tree removal and trimming. This letter will be sent to Sean Fitzgerald, and the Committee will follow up to request a meeting after a week or so.</li> </ul>	
<b>Tree Planting and Conservation</b>	
6. Emerald Ash Borer – The write-up on the Emerald Ash Borer was included in the latest Swampscott Town Newsletter and is also on the Swampscott Conservancy website.	Jim
7. Tree removal plan for Stanley School – Tree #142 which was going to be taken down will now be saved but monitored to make sure it is sound during and after construction. Gino will inform whoever wins the bid to do the tree work at the school.	Verena
8. Linscott Park – Brian provided us with copies of the rules governing the use of Linscott Park which includes no damage to trees. He noted that the Conservation Commission voted to give permitting discretion to the Recreation Director and that this might in some cases lead to a conflict of interest, such as the recent car show. The Conservation Commission is rewriting the rules of use of Linscott Park. <b>Action:</b> Brian will liaise with the Conservation Commission and provide details to the Tree Committee. Richard expressed the opinion that we should balance the desire of the Town to treat Town Hall and Linscott Park as commons with potential damage to trees and try to limit the latter without unduly restricting the former. Beech tree in Linscott Park is dying. <b>Action:</b> Gino will have the beech tree evaluated by an arborist.	Brian
9. Vehicular traffic on town hall property – Verena noted that the canopy perimeter markings we did prior to the car show were ignored by some car owners and some may have been removed.	Verena
10. Swampscott Canopy Study – two students from Salem State will be working with Marzie to produce a study documenting the tree canopy change over recent years. This study will be completed in December. The report may help highlight losses due to development and other causes.	Tara
11. Tree hedges for Abbott Park playgrounds – Trees can provide protection from particulates emitted by car exhaust. A “Tredge” (tree hedge) could consist, for example, of arborvitae. Marzie is looking for	Verena

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a grant to defray the cost of one at Abbott Park playground. The committee will be involved in choosing trees etc.	
12. Tree City USA Award – various levels are possible and a list of tasks is required. It was decided to park this item for now.	Jen
<b>Tree Inventory</b>	
13. Updating trees with missing coordinates, species, and size. <b>Action Item:</b> Brian will investigate getting Boy/Girl Scouts involved in mapping coordinates and possibly other attributes.	All
<b>Other Business</b>	
14. Any other business - None	All
15. Confirmation of next meeting date – December 8, 2022	All