

**TOWN OF SWAMPSCOTT
TREE COMMITTEE
TREE COMMITTEE MINUTES
December 8, 2022**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

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

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

Item	Person Responsible
General Items	
1. Minute taker assignment	Ana
2. Public comment (first 10 minutes of every meeting)	None received
3. Minutes from 11/01 approved	
4. Administrative topics for tree committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We welcomed Robert Levy as a new member. 	
5. Updates from the tree warden <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Newly planted / removed trees / tree requests: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 16-18 Columbia Street. Gino assessed tree is healthy and not in need of removal. 29 trees were planted in 5 days with 3 person crew. We noted that Gino needs to remind planting crews to create 3x5 foot pits. Action Item: New elm needs pit expanded (by Stop & Shop). 8 out of 11 trees were planted at Town Hall (nursery did not have all the species). The rest will be planted in the Spring. Gino plans to mulch town hall trees in the Spring. Beech tree / Linscott Park. Gino unable to hire someone to assess it. Maybe next July 2023 when we have the funds but it's in really rough condition. Conservation Commission has agreed to give \$400 for evaluation/treatment. Nonetheless, there is no point to checking it during the winter. Cicoria contract work at Town Hall (DCR grant). Haven't been paid in full. Gino will follow up. Forestry budget request for Y2023 is pending. 	Gino
Tree Planting and Conservation	

Item	Person Responsible
6. Tree removal plan for Stanley School <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Max said that the removal process will start soon. 	Verena
7. General Glover Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detailed comments from the TC were submitted upon request from the community development department. Awaiting response; Verena will attend the next planning board (PB) meeting 12/12. Review period of project by PB extended until January. 	Jim/Verena
8. Linscott Park Conservation Rules <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The new approved Linscott park rules dated 11/17/2022 state that vehicles are not allowed on Linscott park except DPW, DPW contractors or approved by the Recreation Department. Brian noted that there are no meetings or oversight regarding the park usage; it is left to the recreation department's discretion. The Conservation Commission is not interested in changing the oversight for the use of the park. 	Brian
9. Swampscott Canopy Study/Salem State <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tara showed the student presentation depicting tree canopy data from 2010 vs 2018. A lot of trees lost in Swampscott due to new developments. 1,360 acres of canopy in 2010 followed by 1250 acres in 2016. Total decrease is 110 acres lost over 6 years. • A lot of trees are being lost on private property. We need to find ways to educate homeowners and to protect existing trees in new developments. • Suzanne encourages to develop goals based on the data to implement with Climate Action Resiliency efforts in Swampscott. • Action: Use of these data and next steps to be discussed at the January tree committee meeting. 	Tara
9. Tree hedges for Abbott Park playgrounds—no update. Spring/Summer project when Marzie needs input on landscape designs.	Verena
Tree Inventory	
11. Updating trees with missing coordinates, species, and size <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suzanne could get the 6th grade Girl Scouts involved. This would be a summer project. 	
12. Inventory summary for CARC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requested that we summarize our street tree inventory losses/gains. Richard is working on the programming. Richard states since January 2016 we have planted 276, and 182 have been removed. 	Richard
Other Business	
13. Next Hawthorne by the Sea property meeting is happening on January 28 th , 2023. 14. Confirmation of next meeting date Tuesday January 10 th . 15. Next town meeting articles are apparently all in? Gino said we have \$7,500 currently, \$7,500 more in July. Should cover Spring and Fall plantings. 15. Figure out if there are other town/city bylaws that protect large trees on private land.	All

Item	Person Responsible
16. MBTA commuter rail station could use more trees. Can we contact someone about it? 17. Brian contacted Patrick the treasurer. There are currently \$2000 in donations in the tree gift fund.	