

SWAMPSCOTT TREE COMMITTEE Meeting Minutes – May 12, 2022

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

Members present: Verena Karsten (Chair), Ana Nenshati, Richard Frenkel, Jennifer Honig, Jim Olivetti, Brian Drummond, Tara Galagher, Gino Cresta (Ex Officio)

Public: None present

Meeting called to order at 6:35 pm. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Item	Person Responsible
1. Minute taker	Jim
2. Public comment	None received
3. Approval of minutes from last meeting	Approved
4. Tree Committee Administrative (Openings, TC website) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tara Gallagher is a new Tree Committee member approved by the Select Board on May 11. Still space for one more member. • Jim will request that member names be added to Committee page on the website as well as a link to the Forestry page. 	
5. Updates from the tree warden <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 21 street trees were taken down in March and April. 9 new trees planted, 6 of the 9 were donated by residents. 	Gino
Tree Planting and Conservation	
6. 2022 Spring Planting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 39 trees to be planted in May. 	Gino
7. Arbor Day and Earth Day activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A tulip tree was planted at the Clark School, 2 fourth grade classes in attendance as well as Tree Warden and Committee representatives. • Earth Fest included a white oak sapling giveaway by the Tree Committee, funded by a donation from the Swampscott Conservancy. Approximately 80 saplings were given away. Saplings purchased from the MA Tree Wardens Association. Next year should select a smaller native species if giveaway repeated. 	Jim/Brian
8. DCR Grants for Town Hall trees <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heritage Tree Care: Estimate from contractor received in April was for 15 trees, not 8 as specified in grant. Jim, Richard and Jenn will form a subcommittee to address discrepancy. Gino identified the need to increase existing forestry budget for tree contract work for tree care. 	Jim/Verena

Item	Person Responsible
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tree Planting: Planting of 11 trees for the Veterans arboretum will be planned for the Fall. Pending response from the high school program coordinator for the tree walk project. 	
9. Planting in setback areas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ana will provide Gino with the final version of a form to use in special situations where there is not enough room on town property for standard placement of a street tree. 	Ana
10. Vehicular traffic on Town Hall property <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Verena sent a letter to the Town Administrator outlining Committee concern for vehicles parked near trees. No reply received as of the meeting date. 	Verena
11. Categories for tree planting prioritization <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion of draft “Priorities of Tree Planting in Swampscott”. The public benefits accruing to street trees needs to be kept in mind, as well as the manpower required for maintenance and watering of newly planted trees. Committee will attempt to rank importance of options for planting at next meeting. 	Jen
12. Memorial tree program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> QR code for brochure displayed at Earth Fest event. A link to the form needs to be posted on the Forestry web page. 	Ana
Swampscott Arboretum	
13. Swampscott Arboretum website <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Currently the address is Swampscott Veterans Arboretum (swampscottarboretum.org), but at some point it will revert to the old URL. 	Richard
14. Map of current Arboretum <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A digital mapping of town hall property is needed as part of the DCR tree planting grant fulfillment connected with a “tour” of the arboretum. 	Verena
Tree Inventory	
15. Updating trees with missing coordinates, species, and size <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing. 	Jen/Richard/ Verena
Other Business	
16. New business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tara will investigate possibility of generating a GIS-based tree canopy loss report/display provided through Salem State U. Committee identified a need to integrate consideration of street tree planting as a regular part of sidewalk/street work plans. 	Verena
17. Confirmation of next meeting date – Wednesday June 15, 2022	Confirmed via email