

TOWN OF SWAMPSCOTT

TREE COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes – June 15, 2022

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

Public: None present

Meeting called to order at 6:35 pm. Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Members (present unless noted)		Town Officials (present unless noted)
Verena Karsten, Chair	Jim Olivetti	Gino Cresta, Director of DPW and Tree Warden (Ex-officio)
Ana Nenshati	Brian Drummond	
Richard Frenkel (not present)	Tara Gallagher	
Jennifer Honig		

Item	Person Responsible
1. Minute taker assignment	Jen
2. Public comment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The first 10 minutes of every meeting. No external guests present. 	Verena
3. Approval of minutes from last meeting <i>Word doc</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Approved by unanimous vote. 	Verena
4. Tree Committee Administrative (Openings, TC website) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● There still is one opening. We should encourage people who might be interested to apply. 	Verena
5. Updates from the tree warden <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Gino distributed the list of trees removed and planted in the last month: 38 trees were planted, 6 were removed. Most new trees were paid for by the town, but a few were paid for by residents. Jen will update tree inventory with this information. A few remaining trees will be planted in front of the Fish House and the Banks and Walker intersection. Planting averages about 5 per day except when only a 2 man crew (in which case it is fewer). ● Gino received money for 2 trees from a homeowner on Humphrey Street. Post meeting note: TC recommends an American Basswood to replace the Scarlet oak next to Town Hall and a Princeton Elm to be planted at the bus stop near Stop and Shop on Essex St. 	Gino
Tree Planting and Conservation	

Item	Person Responsible
6. 2022 Spring Planting – see above	Gino
7. Categories for tree planting prioritization <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We reviewed our “2022 Prioritization of Tree Planting in Swampscott” document. We revised one category “streets w/ high pedestrian traffic” to “places with high public usage.” There is a map of proposed green corridors for Swampscott. Open Space Map 12. We can coordinate w/ that perhaps. We agreed to each vote for 3 top priorities, ranking them. Verena to tally up votes. 	Jen
8. DCR Grants for Town Hall trees <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jim: Heritage Tree Care Grant -- We have made progress on this grant. The original response to the proposal for service was for 15 trees, but we only have 8 trees in the grant. We have received a revised proposal. Jim suggests that he, Gino, Richard, and Jen meet to discuss the response to the proposal. Plan to meet 6/17/22. 	Jim/Verena
9. Tree canopy project / Salem State <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tara is reaching out to professors and grad students to do a mapping project of tree canopy. This will look at the canopy over time. In Lynnfield they did this and got a statistic of tree loss over time. 	Tara
10. Vehicular traffic on Town Hall property <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No developments. We are waiting from a response from Sean to our letter. 	Verena
11. Marijuana dispensary sales / funding for trees <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 nonprofits get \$5000 per year in connection w/ the 2 marijuana stores. We will reach out to Swampscott Conservancy to see if they received these funds and might like to use them for tree planting. 	Jim/Verena
12. Memorial tree program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One memorial tree was planted near Middle School and one near the gazebo at Linscott Park. DPW also planted a serviceberry at Linscott Park. DPW is watering them. Brian will start asking Patrick Luddy, Town Accountant, for a report regarding the Tree Gift Fund prior to each meeting. That fund receives gift monies and monies for a memorial tree. Once we post the brochure for memorial tree program on the website, then Tara will write a blurb that we will send to Diane Marchese for the town newsletter. We should also put spring tree planting numbers in the town newsletter. 	Ana
Swampscott Arboretum	
13. Swampscott Arboretum website	Richard

Item	Person Responsible
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Richard wasn't present so we skipped this item. 	
<p>14. Map of current Arboretum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Verena wants to make a photo map. Goal is to plant in the fall. Plan to add 11 trees back into the site near town hall. 	Verena
Tree Inventory	
<p>15. Updating trees with missing coordinates, species, and size</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brian, Tara, and Jim would like to join Jen, Verena, and Rich in doing this work. We use our cell phones. We will train the new folks. App we are using to id the type of tree is Leafsnap. 	Jen/Richard/ Verena
Other Business	
<p>16. New business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waiting to hear from Richard as to his request to Sean to meet to discuss our question regarding the open meeting law. 	Verena
<p>17. Confirmation of next meeting date – Monday, July 11, 2022 at 6:30 at Town Hall.</p>	All