

## SWAMPSCOTT TREE COMMITTEE Meeting Minutes – July 11, 2022

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

**Members present:** Verena Karsten (Chair), Ana Nenshati, Richard Frenkel, Jim Olivetti, Brian Drummond, Gino Cresta (Ex Officio), Katie Phelan (Selectboard Member)

**Public:** None present

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

Item	Person Responsible
1. Minute taker	Ana
2. Public comment	None received
3. Approval of minutes from last meeting	Approved
4. Tree Committee Administrative <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcome Katie Phelan, our liaison to the Selectboard!</li> <li>• We have 1 open membership.</li> <li>• Open meeting law prevents conflict of interest and requires zoom option for public. We will try for the August meeting to do zoom unless we are not bound to the open meeting law. <b>Action:</b> Richard will follow up with the Town lawyer.</li> <li>• Verena sent a detailed email to Marzie to update the website. <b>Action:</b> Verena will follow up with Marzie.</li> <li>• Tree Gift Fund Status=\$2000. Brian will get a list of donations for the next meeting. A donation was made for a serviceberry with bronze plaque at the Fishhouse. Donor purchased the plaque from Crown Trophy. And the other \$\$ is from 2 other memorial trees.</li> </ul>	All
5. Updates from the Tree Warden <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regarding the Tree Hearing from March, he has taken down all but 1 tree. <b>Action:</b> Gino to send a list of trees.</li> <li>• Gino will ask for more \$\$ for contract tree work. Needs more to take down trees and maintain/prune public trees. See new business.</li> <li>• Cicoria has not responded back about the grant work.</li> </ul>	Gino
<b>Tree Planting and Conservation</b>	
6. Emerald Ash Borer <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Swampscott has some public Ash trees. Jim volunteered to evaluate the Ash trees for discussion at the next meeting.</li> </ul>	Verena/Jim
7. Discuss results and next steps for tree planting priorities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tree Planting Priorities Vote: High usage areas won first, followed by residents tree requests and low tree equity neighborhoods. We have 20 trees on a waiting list. So let's do 50/50 for priority 1 and 2. <b>Action:</b> TC members send 3-4 high usage locations where trees could be planted.</li> </ul>	All

Item	Person Responsible
<p>8. DCR Grants for Town Hall trees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	Jim/Verena
<p>4. Tree Canopy Project/ Salem State</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tara wasn't present to discuss</li> </ul>	Tara
<p>5. Vehicular traffic on Town Hall property</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parking on the town hall lawn is still happening. Invite Danielle Strauss (Rec Department) to the next meeting and discuss keeping traffic off of the tree canopy. This needs to apply to the car show, farmers market.</li> </ul>	Verena
<b>Swampscott Arboretum</b>	
<p>6. Swampscott Arboretum website</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Currently the address is <a href="http://swampscottarboretum.org">Swampscott Veterans Arboretum (swampscottarboretum.org)</a> , but at some point it will revert to the old URL.</li> </ul>	Richard
<p>7. Map of current Arboretum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>	Verena
<b>Tree Inventory</b>	
<p>8. Updating trees with missing coordinates, species, and size</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tree Inventory: Need folks to go out and complete info for ~200 trees before the winter. Cell app is as good but maybe 6' off. For inventory, we need to make the marks on a map and that will help create a route easier. <b>Action:</b> Training of volunteers at the next meeting.</li> </ul>	Everyone
<b>Other Business</b>	
<p>9. New business - Additional Funding for Tree Care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DPW needs more funding for tree care in the operating budget. Lack of upkeep to the trees and there needs to be a plan going forward to save some of the trees and maintain others.</li> <li>At the next annual town meeting in May money needs to be requested. Need to write a recommendation regarding capital improvement for May. Operating budget needs to be approved so Gino needs it in by December. How do other towns budget for these things? Tree foreman will be retiring so the new person will need training, need a higher bucket truck, etc. DPW has a low budget on average compared to other towns.</li> </ul> <p><b>Action:</b> Gino to send a list of bullets what the request is for. TC to draft a letter of support to the Town Administrator and copy SB liaison.</p>	Verena

Item	Person Responsible
10. Confirmation of next meeting date – Thursday August 8th, 2022	Confirmed