

TOWN OF SWAMPSCOTT
TREE COMMITTEE MINUTES
8-8-22

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

Public: None present

Meeting called to order at 6:43 pm. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm

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		

Item	Person Responsible
General Items	
1. Minute taker assignment	Tara
2. Public comment (first 10 minutes of every meeting)	Verena
3. Minutes from last meeting were approved	Verena
4. Administrative topics for tree committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Open meeting law follow-up o Website – looks good o Tree gift fund status – next meeting o Membership – will advertise on social media, etc. 	All
5. Updates from the tree warden for June 16 – August 8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 11 trees removed - 5 trees planted - Next tree hearing estimated for late August. Action: Gino will provide list of trees to be taken down for tree committee review prior to tree hearing. 	Gino
Tree Planting and Conservation	
6. Emerald Ash Borer (discuss next month also) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Jim provided report - Educate residents about this threat via bulletin (add to argument for increasing tree budget) - Two ash trees on Monument Ave. Should they be reviewed and how to properly dispose of such trees. Action: Ana to research disposal practices, treatment costs, ash sales at nurseries. Jim to draft an Ash borer info bulletin for homeowners. 	Jim/Ana
7. Diseased European Beeches	Gino

Item	Person Responsible
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Diseased witness Beech Tree in Lindscott Park off Elmwood. Need to have an arborist look at it since it looks different from the common fungal disease phytophthora and Beech leaf disease which is caused by a nematode. Action: Gino to arrange a free consultation from Bartlett Tree Experts. 	
<p>8. DCR Grants for Town Hall trees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Next step: kick-off meeting with Cicoria o Heritage tree care - signage 	Gino
<p>9. Tree removal plan for Stanley School</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New Elementary school architects submitted plan of trees to be removed to Gino; he will forward to committee for review at next meeting. Following meeting review on site after appropriate public meeting notice. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 72 new trees planted o 103 trees to be removed. Tree hearing is required for all trees that are proposed for removal. If objections are made, the SB makes the final decision. 	All
<p>10. Fall tree planting: wait to plant trees until October due to drought but need to order. Due to drought and DPW staff shortages, might be safer to focus on waiting list trees as requestors will be likely to water. Gino sent current waiting list.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o ~20 trees on waiting list o 2 trees leftover from Spring planting (Scarlett Oak replacement and S&S bus stop) o 11 trees for Town Hall (DCR Grant). Hold until spring due to drought. 	All
<p>11. Increase funding for tree care in operating budget</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Significant agenda item for future meeting. Identify additional money Gino needs. Action: Gino will provide bullet list of needs for the Forestry Department for discussion at next meeting. Action: Jim will share info on other towns' budgets for comparison. ● Future action item: Brainstorm ways to get support for Forestry Department. 	Gino
<p>12. Vehicular traffic on town hall property. Action: Verena to set up a meeting with Danielle Strauss to discuss solutions.</p>	Verena/Jen
<p>13. Tree canopy project / Salem State</p>	Tara
Swampscott Arboretum	
<p>14. Map of current arboretum</p>	Verena
Tree Inventory	
<p>15. Updating trees with missing coordinates, species, and size</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Training on GPS App ● Download Leaf Snap or Seek and GPS Status or use Google Map App for Lat/Long 	Jen/Richard/Verena
Other Business	

