

**TOWN OF SWAMPSCOTT  
TREE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
September 8, 2022**

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

**Meeting called to order at 6:00 PM. Meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM**

| Members Present  | Town Officials                                   | Guests  |
|--|--|---|
| Verena Karsten,<br>Chair<br>Ana Nenshati<br>Jennifer Honig | Jim Olivetti<br>Brian Drummond<br>Tara Gallagher | Gino Cresta, Director of DPW<br>and Tree Warden (Ex-officio)<br>Max Kasper, Director of<br>Facilities<br>Suzanne Hale |

| Item  | Person Responsible |
|---|--------------------|
| <b>General Items</b>  |                    |
| 1. Minute taker assignment  | Jen                |
| <p>Tree Removal Plan for Stanley School (#7 moved up)</p> <p>Review of revised plan for Stanley school tree removal with Max Kasper. Trees on UU church property aren't public trees so not under the purview of the tree committee. Max received a new map showing trees preserved and trees removed from site with tree ID. Gino will share it with the group. The design team was given direction to preserve trees when they could. It's possible to remove trees from the removal list if we agree with the design team. The design of the playground could potentially be changed to save trees.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> Tree Committee will provide a suggested list of additional trees to be protected early next week.</p> <p>Landscaping plan is being finalized now. The Swampscott Conservancy (SC) is involved w/ landscaping and Max is setting up a meeting w/ the landscape architect now. Max would want takeaways from that in an addendum. We have years before these are put in, but it is bid out (all inclusive) now. If the pollinator garden is going to be pulled out of the bid that can happen at any time.</p> | All                |
| 2. No public comment  | Verena             |
| 3. Approval of minutes from last meeting – approved   | Verena             |
| <p>4. Administrative topics for tree committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Tree gift fund status – Brian talked to the town Treasurer and reported on balances in Tree Gift Fund and Memorial Tree Fund.</li> </ul>  | Brian              |

| Item   | Person Responsible    |
|--|-----------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Membership – 2 people expressed interest in filling the last spot on the Committee. The individual applying in May will be invited to the next meeting to see if she thinks it is a good fit.</li> </ul> <p><b>Action:</b> Jim will invite the candidate to the October meeting.</p>  | Jim                   |
| <p>5. Updates from the tree warden</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Newly planted / removed trees – 4 trees were removed b/c they were dead</li> <li>Memorial tree requests – no new requests</li> <li>Cicoria work at Town Hall (DCR grant) – pruning has been done. Also billed for soil treatment and treatments to suppress beach bark scale on tree #1. They also have to develop a 3-year maintenance plan. There is still mulching and chipping for the town to do.</li> </ul> <p><b>Action:</b> Gino will call Cicoria and see what tasks remain outstanding.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Forestry budget request for Y2023 – tree committee to put together a request. Currently the budget only has 2 line items: tree planting and contracting.</li> </ul> <p><b>Action:</b> Jim will draft a letter proposing additional funding for tree contract work (maintenance/removal). Letter will go to the town administrator copying Katie Phelan.</p> | Gino                  |
| <b>Tree Planting and Conservation</b>  |                       |
| <p>6. Emerald Ash Borer – TC agreed that it is a good idea to put out info to homeowners, post on SC website and put in town newsletter.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> Jim to update the bulletin with photos of beetles and ash trees.</p>  | Jim                   |
| <p>7. Tree removal plan for Stanley School (see above)</p>   | All                   |
| <p>8. Fall tree planting – everyone who was assigned location has given Verena feedback on individual locations)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Soil additives (biochar) Ana – Biochar is very expensive. DCR is experimenting with this material. Just started using this yr. 15 gallons for trees less than 2 inch. 2 15 gallon buckets for a street tree. Swampscott doesn't amend w/ any compost now.</li> </ul> <p><b>Action:</b> Ana will look up where DCR is sourcing this.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ana offered kindly to take over getting a quote from Amherst for Fall planting.</li> </ul>  | Ana, Jen, Jim, Verena |
| <p>9. Vehicular traffic on town hall property – Verena reached out to Danielle about a meeting. Danielle asked for the sources that went w/ the letter. Verena provided those.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> Jen will talk to liaison to our group, Katie Phelan, about next steps.</p>  | Verena                |
| <b>Tree Inventory</b>  |                       |
| <p>10. Updating trees with missing coordinates, species, and size</p>  | All                   |
| <b>Other Business</b>  |                       |

| Item   | Person Responsible |
|--|--------------------|
| <p>11. Any other business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Tree City USA Award (which is above certification).</li> </ul> <p><b>Action:</b> Jen will look up what it means to get that award.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Tara was hoping to have Salem State students do a tree canopy study. There is a class this fall that is interested. Tara has to make a presentation and they would have to select it. They could connect w/ Pete Kane re doing work that will be compatible w/ the town's GIS system.</li> <li>● Suzanne wants to know if we want to give input on priorities of our committee for the climate resiliency plan – put on future agenda?</li> </ul> | All                |
| 12. Confirmation of next meeting date – Monday Oct 3, 2022 6:30  | All                |