

**TOWN OF SWAMPSCOTT
TREE COMMITTEE MINUTES**

Minutes of the Tree Committee on Thursday March 9, 2023 beginning at 6:30 pm. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

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

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	Robert Levy	

Item	Person Responsible
General Items	
• Minute taker assignment	Jim
• Public comment (first 10 minutes of every meeting)	None received
• Approval of minutes from February 16 th meeting - Approved	Verena
• Administrative topics for tree committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ethics Training – repeated reminder to take this training 	Verena
Updates from the tree warden <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tree removals – 10 street trees removed, 6 were dead, 4 were removed as a result of the February 9th tree hearing. • Maintenance plan for heritage trees (Cicoria/DCR grant) – at a meeting February 15th, Marzie Galazka said she would follow-up with Cicoria. Gino will check with Marzie for an update. • Railroad Ave Improvements – a grant was received to make improvements to the station crosswalk. Gino will review site plans to see if there is any room for new trees. It was noted that there is also a total lack of trees at the station parking lot across from the Paradiso restaurant. As this is a highly trafficked area, it falls under a priority for tree planting. 	Gino
Tree Planting and Conservation	
Next Steps for Swampscott Canopy Study <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduced by Tara, Salem State students will present the results of their canopy study to the Select Board on March 15th. Jen and Jim will be on hand to answer questions on the Committee's budget request letter and the Municipal Reforestation Bill. • Tara will summarize the study for an upcoming issue of the Swampscott newsletter. 	Tara / All

Item	Person Responsible
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rob suggested that the Salem News might publish an article on the study, as well as the Lynn Item. 	
Municipal Reforestation Bill Letter <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A final draft of the letter to Senator Crighton asking him to co-sponsor The Municipal Reforestation Bill was circulated to the Committee. The Committee voted unanimously to email the letter to Senator Crighton from Verena as Chair directly after the March 15th Select Board meeting. 	Jim / Jenn
Spring Planting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The list of trees is on the Google drive. Richard suggested that an “Idiot’s Guide” be prepared to be used to aid in decision-making for new and replacement trees. It was noted that, for the most part, the “Accepted Street Trees” list on the Forestry website serves this purpose. Height and spread of the candidate tree are major factors. Ana stated that there should be 15 to 20 feet minimum between trees and that the presence of a green strip is a positive for planting. It was decided to plant a tulip tree as a memorial tree for Paul Levenson. Location near library on the town hall lawn. 	Ana / Verena
Tracker for Future Tree Planting Locations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jen will begin maintaining a file of proposed areas (not individual tree locations) that would have priority consideration for new public trees. 	Jen
Tree Give-Away at Earth Fest (29-April) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brian or Richard will contact Suzanne Hale to learn what preparations are needed for the redbud tree giveaway. Rob will assist at the event. 	Brian/Richard
Quarterly Review of Parking Lot - completed	Tara / All
Tree Inventory	
Mapping by Eagle Scout <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eagle Scout candidate Elliot Pulaski has proposed as an Eagle Scout project establishing GPS coordinates and determining size and species of the 190 trees on the tree inventory lacking this data. 	Brian
Other Business	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tara suggested to use Google Earth Imaging to identify areas in Swampscott for planting trees. A demonstration could be the next step. Confirmation of next meeting date Thursday, April 13th 	All