

TOWN OF SWAMPSCOTT
TREE COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes September 14, 2023

Received by Town Clerk
October 23, 2023, 8:00am

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm. Meeting location: Elihu Thomson Administration Building, 22 Monument Avenue, Swampscott, MA 01907, 1st floor conference room.

Members		Town Officials
Jim Olivetti, Chair	Ana Nenshati	Gino Cresta, Director of DPW and Tree Warden (Ex-officio)
Jennifer Honig, Vice Chair	Brian Drummond	
Richard Frenkel	Tara Gallagher	
Verena Karsten	Robert Levy	

Item	Person Responsible
General Items	
1. Minute taker assignment	Ana
2. Public comment <ul style="list-style-type: none">Sarah Sweeney, 59 Thomas Rd., expressed concern about the health of a large oak tree in front of her home. The Committee encouraged her to submit the tree for consideration at the next public Tree Hearing.Suzanne Hale also attended the meeting.	Jim
3. Eagle Scout tree inventory project presentation <ul style="list-style-type: none">Elliot Pulaski from troop 53 presented his Eagle Scout project to the Committee. The project involved visiting 174 street tree locations to update the online Shade Tree Inventory database.	Elliot Pulaski/Brian
4. Approval of minutes from July 11, 2023 - Approved	Jim
5. Administrative topics <ul style="list-style-type: none">October minute taker – JenEthics online training—Most members have taken the training.DCR Tree Steward Training Oct. 27th—Jen is on waiting list, Jim has registered.Verena will prepare and submit the Tree Committee FY2023 Annual Report. Richard will provide trees planted and lost data during the fiscal year for the Report.	Jim
6. Publicity/communications ideas <ul style="list-style-type: none">Table at Farmer's Market Sunday 9/17—Jen will bring a sign. Jim has handouts to give out.Richard will put files with website gift fund + memorial tree program QR codes on the shared driveBrian will write up the Eagle Scout project and send it to Richard for the Swampscott Newsletter.	Richard/Jim

Item	Person Responsible
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suggestion made to describe the Microforest in an upcoming Newsletter issue to better inform the public. 	
7. Updates from the Tree Warden None recorded.	Gino
Tree Planting and Conservation	
8. Fall Planting status update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funds from regular budget available for Fall 2023 Planting. Trees will be ordered from Bigelow Nursery this season. Suzanne will email members a UMASS urban tree guide. 	Verena/Ana/Jim
9. Tree Preservation Bylaw draft <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Select Board asked the Committee to consider the need for a by-law for when trees are removed on private property during construction. Subcommittee formed, Jen(chair), Verena and Tara, to draft a by-law that could complement the existing Trees by-law. Jim will send completed draft to Town Administrator with request for input from Town Counsel. 	Jen/Verena/Tara
10. Swampscott Canopy Study <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The study was covered in the Newsletter and posted on the Committee website. 	Tara/Jim
11. Memorial Arboretum update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plaques are being installed. Mulch was improperly placed on newly planted trees (too much on trunk, needs to be pulled back). A rededication event, possibly for Memorial Day, 2024, is being considered. 	Verena/Brian
12. Capital appropriation request for public trees <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gino is submitting a request to the Capital Improvement Committee for funding above the operating budget allocation to support planting of street trees and trees in other public places. Request will reference Salem State tree canopy loss report. 	Gino
13. Playground trees (Phillips, Abbott, Clarke) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landscaping for Abbott is still being planned. Will revisit this in the Spring 2024. Tulip tree at Clarke school park looks like it was damaged; it is leaning and there was damage at the base. This needs to be addressed by DPW. There does not seem to be adequate planting space by the Phillips playground to add shade trees. Further study needed. 	Tara
14. Review of Approved Street Tree list <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ana will create spreadsheet of additions and removals to current list. 	Jim/All
15. Pruning – topic postponed.	Jen/Jim/Gino

Item	Person Responsible
16. Updates to Tree Committee and Forestry web pages. - Changes completed. Members should let Jim know of further corrections/additions needed.	Jim
Tree Inventory	
17. Inventory will be updated with Eagle Scout collected data.	Richard
Other Business	
18. The newly planted microforest at the intersection of Paradise and Walker Rd. was discussed. The Committee learned that it has received vocal support from the Select Board. The Committee is following the development of this project with interest.	All
20. Confirmation of next meeting date –Scheduled for 10/19/23	All