

TOWN OF SWAMPSCOTT
TREE COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes October 19, 2023

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The Tree Committee held a public meeting in person on Thursday October 19, 2023 beginning at 6:30 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 (absent)	Gino Cresta, Director of DPW and Tree Warden, Ex-officio Katie Phelan, Select Board Liaison (absent)
Jennifer Honig, Vice Chair	Brian Drummond	
Richard Frenkel	Tara Gallagher	
Verena Karsten	Robert Levy	

Item	Person Responsible
General Items	
1. Minute taker assignment	Jen
2. Public comment (first 10 minutes of every meeting) – no public attending	Jim
3. Approval of minutes from September 14, 2023 -- approved	Jim
4. Administrative topics for tree committee <ul style="list-style-type: none">November Minute taker - TaraAnnual Report - completed	Jim/Verena
5. Publicity/communications ideas <ul style="list-style-type: none">Table at Farmer's Market Sunday 9/17 (Review) – Jim and Tara tabled and were well received by people with substantive questions; we should consider doing again in the future.Eagle Scout Project publicity – Brian wrote up a report and Jim edited it. To be included in upcoming Swampscott Newsletter.Other publicity opportunities – discussed possible opportunities:<ul style="list-style-type: none">Submitting our flyer advertising the Tree Gift Fund in newsletter w/ QR code;Story for Lynn Item (Richard has contact) – maybe on beech tree to be removed from Linscott Park.Armini quote about Swampscott tree canopy study made at Oct. 11, 2023 hearing of Joint Committee on Env't and Natural Resources – Jen will send transcript to TaraMicroforest introduction to its purpose. (Suzanne)	Jim/Brian/Richard

Item	Person Responsible
<p>6. Updates from the Tree Warden</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tree Removals – went over Gino’s Sept/Oct. list – some from Tree Hearing and some were dead. • Railroad Station Project – proposed that Gino put a tree on a new island on inbound to Boston side and he agreed. • Mulching matters – DPW workers went around town hall and corrected the “volcano” mulching – the issue was that the trees were planted too high; the workers also put cement around the commemorative plaques. • Other – Brian notes 2 dead trees at Hadley on Redington sidewalk (but we defer because of lack of certainty of future property use) and also a nearly dead tree at 3 Arbutus – we will wait for next year. • Car show – Danielle said car owners drive over flags and we need to use cones instead (on Linscott Park side as well) 	Gino/Jim
Tree Planting and Conservation	
<p>7. Fall Planting - status update – we are ready to go. We weren’t able to get some trees we selected. Two reasons: 1) nurseries don’t have the stock so late in season; and 2) we focused on large trees. Seek more diversity in spring.</p>	Ana/Gino
<p>8. Tree Preservation Bylaw – status update – Jen, Verena, and Tara discussed Jen’s conversation with the Lexington Tree Warden who had some practical advice about the process of enforcement. Jen, Verena, and Tara will set up a meeting w/ Gino and the Swampscott Building Commissioner to go over the process before finalizing draft bylaw for submission to Town Counsel</p>	Jen
<p>9. Memorial Arboretum - status update – plaques cemented and Verena will review the work done.</p>	Verena
<p>10. Capital appropriation request for public trees – no news yet. The request is currently with the Town Treasurer.,</p>	Gino
<p>11. Linscott Beech – Timber + Salt document – Gino received a proposal from Fraser Watson for use of the dead beech tree wood. DPW would take down tree. Jim will follow up with Fraser so we can better understand the nature of the arrangement being proposed.</p>	Gino
<p>12. Metal tags for labeling trees – Richard purchased tags and wire to label public trees in our Arboretum. Verena will attach them.</p>	Tara/Richard
<p>13. Playground trees (Phillips, Abbott/Clarke/Jackson) <u>Abbott/Clarke</u> One tree removed and 2 put in. But the tulip tree planted 2 years ago at Arbor Day was damaged during playground construction. Tree protection needed s during construction, even when they aren’t projects done through a formal process.</p>	Tara

Item	Person Responsible
<u>Phillips</u> Need to define suitable planting area. There is no room to plant trees given playground material/fence/path arrangement. <u>Jackson</u> One tree lost recently. It had a plaque for John Picariello. Plan to include Suzanne and leave adequate time on Dec. agenda.	
14. Review of Approved Street Tree list – This is a winter project – hope to have a list for February agenda.	Ana
Tree Inventory	
15. Incorporating Eagle Scout project data – Richard has finished incorporating Eagle Scout data. Scouts dropped pins on Google Maps to find location.	Richard
Other Business	
16. Trimming beech with amputated arms – We will ask Ana before taking action to determine best approach.	Jen
17. Setting long term Goals for Public Trees was encouraged by members of the Select Board. We will plan to have a meeting largely devoted to this process. Some ideas mentioned: Vinnin Square development – Tree Committee should have an established role in any development. Expanding canopy by 25% Planting fruit trees Look at Tree City USA document	Jim
New Business	
18. Members are encouraged to read the draft Vinnin Square design guidelines prepared by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council for the town in prep for 11/23 meeting. We would need to give input to the Planning Board around that time. The Planning Board plan to vote on these in December.	
19. Elm Place – We understand that Marzie will send us design plans.	
20. Planting fruit trees – initial discussion – deferred to our goal setting meeting	Tara
21. Confirmation of next meeting date – Nov. 16, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. at Town Hall.	All