

**TOWN OF SWAMPSCOTT
TREE COMMITTEE MINUTES
December 19, 2023**

Received by Town Clerk
January 22, 2024, 8:00am

The Tree Committee held a public meeting in person on Tuesday December 19, 2023 beginning at 6:30 pm. The meeting adjourned at 8:20 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) Public: Suzy Tweed
Jennifer Honig, Vice Chair	Brian Drummond	
Richard Frenkel	Tara Gallagher	
Verena Karsten	Robert Levy	

Item	Person Responsible
General Items	
1. Minute taker assignment	Jim
2. Public comment - None received	Jen (serving as Chair)
3. Approval of minutes from November 16, 2023 - Approved	Jen
4. Administrative topics for tree committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January 2024 Minute taker – Brian • Long term goals for Swampscott’s trees – how to address? Brainstorming scheduled for February meeting, finalizing goals at March meeting. Jim will contact related town committees and the Swampscott Conservancy to offer the opportunity to provide input into this effort. • Ana will prepare a review of the “Approved Street Tree” list based on her DCR planting experience for January meeting discussion. 	Jim
5. Publicity/communications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tree Gift Fund promotion in newsletter – status Promotion appeared on first page of January issue. • Identify other publicity opportunities: Tara will write up 2023 planting analysis for February issue. Suzanne Hale may provide an article about the microforest for March. Verena will announce the Arboretum re-dedication for the April issue. 	Richard
6. Updates from the Tree Warden <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tree Removals & Plantings – very little activity since Fall planting. 	Gino

Item	Person Responsible
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mulching newly planted trees – is it happening? Gino agreed to mulch newly planted street trees, most likely using purchased mulch. ● Beech with amputated arms - -re-prune in winter? Gino agreed to prune the amputated arms of the town hall beech tree in February at Ana’s recommendation. 	
Tree Planting and Conservation	
<p>7. Vinnin Square Design Guidelines –Committee response The Committee’s response was summarized at the December Planning Board meeting. Angela Ipolito expressed the Board’s appreciation for the Committee’s efforts. At that meeting, Jim and Richard offered the Tree Committee’s support for drafting of bylaws that may be generated by these standards & guidelines.</p>	Jim
<p>8. Tree Preservation Bylaw – update Jen distributed a flow chart illustrating the steps involved in processing the proposed tree mitigation and protection plan. More fine-tuning is needed; once completed, Gino will pass it on to the Building Commissioner for comment.</p>	Jen
<p>9. Arboretum re-dedication May 2024– next steps Verena noted that combining the re-dedication with other Memorial Day events was essential. Brian will connect with Michael Sweeney to follow up. Brian will also check with the Historical Commission to attempt to identify Swampscott relatives of those memorialized to invite them to attend event. A display of all the memorial plaques still in storage is planned.</p>	Verena
<p>10. Capital appropriation request for public trees – update Gino reported meeting with the Capital Improvement Committee. The CIC approved the Tree Committee’s request for tree planting funding in 2024-25 budget. In order to maximize numbers planted, the planting work will utilize both inhouse and contracted labor.</p>	Gino
<p>11. Linscott Beech takedown – Timber + Salt document ideas Gino will check with Marzie Galazka on possible grant opportunities to fund one or more projects using the beech tree remains.</p>	Gino/Jim
Tree Inventory	
<p>12. Status report Nothing new to report. Richard thanked Jen for her efforts keeping the inventory up-to-date. Verena suggested that the original inventory, completed in Fall, 2018, may need to be redone, as individual tree health will have changed over the past 6 years.</p>	Richard
Other Business	
<p>13. Planning Board Site Plan Special Permit – role for Tree Committee Jim will set up meeting with the Planning Board after the winter town meeting.</p>	Jim

Item	Person Responsible
<p>14. Hadley School redevelopment</p> <p>Jim will follow up on Brian's suggestion that a letter be sent to the appropriate parties citing the Tree Committee's interest in being involved in the landscape design of the boutique hotel at the Hadley School site, once a proposal is accepted.</p>	
<p>15. Confirmation of next meeting date: Thursday January 18, 2024</p>	<p>All</p>