

TOWN OF SWAMPSCOTT
TREE COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes January 12, 2023

The Tree Committee was called to order on Thursday January 12, 2023 at 6:30 pm and adjourned at 8:30 pm.

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

Members		Town Officials
Verena Karsten, Chair	Brian Drummond	Gino Cresta, Director of DPW and Tree Warden (Ex-officio)
Richard Frenkel	Robert Levy	
Jennifer Honig		
Absent: Ana Nenshati; Jim Olivetti; Tara Gallagher		
Member of the Public		
Suzanne Hale		

Item	Person Responsible
General Items	
1. Minute taker assignment	Jen
2. Public comment (first 10 minutes of every meeting)	Verena
3. Minutes from 12/08 were reviewed and approved by members.	Verena
4. Administrative topics for tree committee <ul style="list-style-type: none">Tree Committee Responsibilities and Procedures – we reviewed a document that Verena and Jim drafted and discussed proposed edits. Verena will finalize the document.We discussed the Annual Report due from town committees to town each January. Action: Verena will draft the report and submit.	Verena
5. Updates from the tree warden <ul style="list-style-type: none">Tree planting<ul style="list-style-type: none">Waiting list: Gino is maintaining it. Verena already moved ~20 locations from the Fall 2022 to the Spring 2023 Planting list.Memorial trees (Paul Levenson, Town Hall/Linscott Park): Discussed location and types of trees (red bud, tulip tree, sweet gum, or oak). Suzanne paid \$350 to tree memorial fund on behalf of the Swampscott Conservancy (SC). The plaque will be an additional cost. Suzanne will choose tree type when we know the location.	Gino

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Removed trees <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ New trees removed between Dec 8, 2022 and Jan. 12, 2023. Four trees were removed following a tree hearing and 3 trees were removed after the 12/23/31 windstorm. Jen took Gino's tree removal list which included these trees and will edit the inventory and upload the list. ● Gino attended a 2-day conference for tree wardens and others. Of note, UMass expert recommended not planting more beeches for the near future b/c of several diseases plaguing beeches. ● Cicoria contract work at Town Hall (DCR grant) Marzie asked if our committee got the management plan, but we haven't received it. Action: Gino will follow up with Cicoria. 	
Tree Planting and Conservation	
<p>6. Next Steps for Swampscott Canopy Study</p> <p>Suzanne submitted the canopy study to what is now the Action Plan Committee (formerly CARC, but now established as a town committee). See below for more on CARC.</p> <p>Re the study, Brian suggests captioning the video images to say "click on this image to show xxxx" so that people will know to click on the image for the film and know what the point of the video will be.</p> <p>What to do w/ the study? We discussed presenting it to the selectboard. We will ask Tara to coordinate that with the students. We could also include reference to it in our annual report.</p> <p>We discussed potential remedies to the loss of canopy:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Funding</u>: Use this data to set the stage for asking for more money for public shade trees in the future. 2. <u>New Developments</u>: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. We could review regulations (eg site plan regs and zoning by-laws) and propose updates for tree preservation and more green space. b. We can research other towns' rules for trees during new developments. c. Ask for developers to select trees and species that grow bigger at maturity than those currently/typically planted. 3. <u>Residential Property</u>: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Review the regulations to propose updates to tree removal language b. Research examples from other Towns (eg. Concord, Lexington) 4. <u>Other Ideas</u>: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Think about shift of thinking about replacing canopy rather than just thinking about numbers of trees planted. b. Think creatively about locations for planting trees (eg., Stop and Shop parking lot, state-owned public housing on Cherry St.) 	All

Item	Person Responsible
c. Increase creation of grass strips for tree planting during new sidewalk projects	
<p>7. Earth Fest Tree Give-Away</p> <p>Jen reached out to Alexis to confirm that the bike sale is April 29th and hasn't heard back yet but it is likely that it will happen. Conservancy is allocating \$200 for seedlings. Jim cannot attend. Brian and Richard volunteered to do the event, and Robert will assist. Gino will arrange for table from town hall/garage. From last year's experience, Brian suggests we offer a smaller tree and redbud was selected from the Mass Tree Warden list. Action: Suzanne/SC will order and pay for the trees.</p> <p>Note: Balsam Fir oils kill Lyme ticks so it would be great if we could find those!</p>	Brian, Richard, (Robert / Jen if needed)
<p>8. Thoughts for development of the Hawthorn by the Sea</p> <p>Jan 28th is a public meeting for input. 10 a.m.-1p.m. at the restaurant. Attend if possible!</p> <p>Glover property planning board meeting updated – Verena attended by video and asked about our involvement. They agreed to have a site visit with us in the spring.</p>	All
Tree Inventory	
<p>9. Inventory summary for CARC</p> <p>Richard did a "Swampscott Street Tree Count" document w/ numbers of street trees over time, removed, added, and cumulative. This document or its data could also go in annual report.</p> <p>Discussion of whether to include some estimate of canopy removed in this document. We could add a column to indicate canopy loss based on 2016 DBH measurement of removed trees. We could use 2 inch diameter as an estimate of the size of new trees planted.</p> <p>In the future, we can think about how to convert that sort of data to canopy.</p> <p>We can think about how to use this document for purposes beyond CARC.</p> <p>We discussed the CARC will have recommendations. Suzanne will circulate any tree-specific language to our committee to see if it aligns with our goals.</p>	Richard
<p>Other Business</p> <p>Tree inventory missing data:</p> <p>Brian contacted boy scout troop #53 leader (Dave LaPorte). They are interested in helping get coordinates for trees in data base that lack them. Richard made a copy of data base which we sent to scouts. Scouts will use phones to collect the data. They wanted to see if they can ping the location as a way to generate the coordinates. Suzanne is a girl scout leader and can coordinate w/ the boy scout leader. We discussed using iNaturalist as a method of collecting coordinates. Richard is going to think about how to transfer the iNaturalist data to the tree survey. Jen can help if there is data entry work involved.</p>	Brian/Richard (Jen w/ help from Suzanne)
Next meeting date: Feb. 7 at 6:30 p.m. at Town Hall	All