

**TOWN OF SWAMPSCOTT
TREE COMMITTEE MINUTES
MARCH 27, 2024**

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**The meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm. The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM.
Meeting location: Elihu Thomson Administration Building, 22 Monument Avenue, Swampscott, MA, 3rd 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	Katie Phelan, Select Board Liaison
Richard Frenkel	Tara Gallagher	Public: Suzanne Hale
Verena Karsten (out)	Robert Levy	

Item	Person Responsible
General Items	
1. Minute taker assignment	Richard
2. Public comment - none received	Jim
3. Approval of February 22nd minutes - approved without changes	Jim
4. Administrative topics for tree committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● April minute taker – Verena ● Richard will work with Verena to transfer Committee Google Drive 	Jim
5. Publicity/communications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Robert will be writing an article on the Arboretum rededication for the May newsletter. This has to be submitted in early April. ● Suzzane Hale will be writing an article about the microforest ● Tara suggested we do a followup article after the Earth Fest tree giveaway 	Richard
6. Updates from the Tree Warden <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Tree Removals & Plantings - two trees removed as hazards. Brian mentioned the dead beech in Linscott park was losing branches. ● Capital appropriation request for public trees - this looks to be on track for Town Meeting. 	Gino
Tree Planting and Conservation	
7. Tree Preservation Bylaw – The Town Administrator has referred the draft to Town Counsel and Jen will be in touch with Robin Stein, Esq. The final draft will need to be submitted to Town Meeting.	Jen
8. Memorial Arboretum re-dedication May 2024– Brian is working with the veterans to finalize a date and time near Memorial Day. Tara suggested inviting Swampscott Historic Society to do a presentation.	Verena/Brian

Item	Person Responsible
9. American hornbeam sapling giveaway at Earth Fest -- Suzzane Hale has ordered these and they will be handed out along with documentation, the same way they were last year. Jen has a Tree Committee sign she will bring and copies of brochures to hand out.	Jim
10. Approved Street Tree List revisions – role of native species. There was extensive discussion about what should and should not be included. There are two sections: one for street trees and one for everywhere else. It was felt that non-natives have a place on the street tree list when a native tree might not be sufficiently hardy or suitable at a location. The list of trees for other locations will only include natives but include “assisted migration” of natives from further south as climate change continues. The list of trees for “other” locations can be used to suggest trees to residents for private planting. The American Sycamore was noted as a suitable native tree. Non-native Cherry trees will be removed from the list. The members expressed their appreciation for the extensive work Ana did to develop this revised list.	Ana et al
11. Locations for 2024 Tree Planting – status of recommended sites. Ana will review the suggested sites and notes and recommend trees. Gino will be mailing out a letter to residents about plans to plant a street tree at their address and will not plant a tree if they object.	Jim/All
12 Brainstorming long term Committee goals POSTPONED	Jim
Tree Inventory	
Status - up to date	Richard
Other Business	
13. Howland Park slope clearing of dead material – Open Space Inquiry – Jim was not in favor of any cleanup as not being needed and that was the consensus of the committee. Jim will inform Tania Lillak of that consensus.	Jim
14. Next meeting date: Thursday, Apr 18, 2024	All