

URBAN FORESTRY TREE COMMISSION MEETING

Wednesday September 11, 2024 – 6:00 P.M.

Parks, Recreation & Cemetery Administrative Office

Meeting Room A

50 Officer Manny Familia Way Worcester, MA 01605

Or

If you choose to use the Microsoft Teams platform:

- 1) Go to www.teams.com
- 2) Enter Meeting ID# 218 760 908 355
- 3) Enter password: ScGN7z

If you choose to attend via phone:

- 1) Call 1-469-998-7682
- 2) Enter Meeting ID#: 711 506 863#

If technological problems interrupt the virtual meeting component, the meeting will continue in-person.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Attendance (Roll Call)
3. Acceptance of Minutes for the (Roll Call) – June 5, 2024
4. To request a reasonable accommodation or interpretation or submit written comments or questions in advance of the meeting, please contact the Parks, Recreation & Cemetery Division by email at Worcestertrees@worcesterma.gov. Please note that interpretation requests must be received no later than 48 hours in advance of the meeting. Para solicitar una interpretacion razonable, o enviar comentarios o preguntas por escrito por favor comuniquese con la oficina de la Division de Parques, Recreo & Cementerio por correo electronico a Worcestertrees@worcesterma.gov. Por favor note que las solicitudes de interpretacion deberan ser enviadas 48 horas antes de la reunion.
5. Public Participation – Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021 and in order to ensure active, public engagement, the City of Worcester currently allows for both in person and remote participation at the Urban Forestry Tree Commission meetings. To partake in the “Public Participation” section of this meeting, you may join us directly within the 50 Officer Manny Familia Way Meeting Room A, follow the information above to join via the Teams application or dial the direct line as indicated. If you would like to raise your hand when in the meeting as a call-in user, you may dial *5.

6. Assistant Commissioners Report (See Report Topics Below)

7. Old Business

- Request of Commissioner Winbourne for the Commission to set goals for the Commission
- Request of Commissioner Winbourne to discuss the proposed Worcester Urban Forestry Research Summit
- Green Worcester Cool Pocket
- Miyawaki Forest
- Green Worcester Summit

8. New Business

Agenda items must be submitted (3) three business days before each Commission Meeting with subject line "Agenda Item" to worcestertrees@worcesterma.gov.

- Update on Urban Forest Master Plan

9. Tabled Items

Tabled agenda items cannot be discussed at a meeting until it has been moved to old business. The item must be requested and approved during the previous meeting to be included on the next agenda.

- Request of Commissioner Winbourne to discuss Green School Yard Program
- Review City Ordinances on Trees – Fall 2024
[Trees in the City - Right Tree, Right Place | City of Worcester, MA \(worcesterma.gov\)](#)
- NA

10. Date of Next Meeting:

- October 9, 2024
- November 6, 2024
- December 4, 2024
- January 15, 2025 (Tentative)
- February 5, 2025(Tentative)
- March 12, 2025(Tentative)
- April 2, 2025(Tentative)
- May 7, 2025(Tentative)
- June 4, 2025(Tentative)

11. Meeting Adjourned (Roll Call)



URBAN FORESTRY TREE COMMISSION **MINUTES**

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Parks, Recreation & Cemetery Administrative Office

Meeting Room A

50 Officer Manny Familia Way Worcester, MA 01605

Or

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- 2) Enter Meeting ID# 243 542 867 602
- 3) Enter password: TbYSEm

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AGENDA

1. Call to Order – 6:05 pm
2. Attendance (Roll Call) – Commissioners Present were:
 - Alexander Elton
 - Robin Karoway-Waterhouse
 - Joy Winbourne
 - Kristin Wobbe
 - Administration Present were:
 1. Robert C. Antonelli, Jr., Assistant Commissioner
 2. Brian Breveleri – Supervisor of Forestry
 3. John Grady, Foreman – Virtual
 4. Dennis Tucker, Working Foreman
 5. Milagros Pacheco, Staff Assistant III
3. Acceptance of Minutes for the (Roll Call) – May 1, 2024.

- Commissioner Winbourne made a motion to approve the minutes for May 1, 2024. Second by Commissioner Wobbe. All were in favor. Motion was approved 4 – 0.
4. To request a reasonable accommodation or interpretation or submit written comments or questions in advance of the meeting, please contact the Parks, Recreation & Cemetery Division by email at Worcestertrees@worcesterma.gov. Please note that interpretation requests must be received no later than 48 hours in advance of the meeting. Para solicitar una interpretacion razonable, o enviar comentarios o preguntas por escrito por favor comuniquese con la oficina de la Division de Parques, Recreo & Cementerio por correo electronico a Worcestertrees@worcesterma.gov. Por favor note que las solicitudes de interpretacion deberan ser enviadas 48 horas antes de la reunion.
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 6. Assistant Commissioners Report (See Report Topics Below)
 7. Old Business
 - Request of Commissioner Winbourne for the Commission to set goals for the Commission.
 - Request of Commissioner Winbourne to discuss the proposed Worcester Urban Forestry Research Summit
 - Request of Commissioner Karoway-Waterhouse on MA State Champion Trees
 - Assistant Commissioner Antonelli said he had done some research on this item, and he said that the list is not clear of where some of these are but that the Roosevelt Oak is still there it’s off Ararat Street on private property owned by the Greater Worcester Land Trust.
 - Commissioner Karoway-Waterhouse said others are on Worcester Housing property.
 - Commissioner Winbourne made a motion to file the Champion Tree item. Second by Commissioner Karoway-Waterhouse. All were in favor. Motion was approved 4 – 0.
 8. New Business

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 - Green Worcester Cool Pocket – The funding for this is to develop a plan not to implement it, but to work with the community to understand to best ways to implement to create cool pockets not just by tree planting but to add spray parks. One of the locations is at Columbus Park School and the other on Vernon Hill Park.
 - Miyawaki Forest – There are two one in the McGrath Parking lot by the library and another one in Plumbley Village.
 - Green Worcester Summit – It happened May 11, 2024

9. Tabled Items

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11. Meeting Adjourned (Roll Call)

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER’S REPORT:

1. General:

- Urban Forest Master Plan Review
 - Update – Second Draft available at [Trees in the City - Right Tree, Right Place | City of Worcester, MA \(worcesterma.gov\)](#)
 - Assistant Commissioner Antonelli explained that once the Master Plan is approved by the Parks & Recreation Commission it would go to City Council for review. The Council will decide if it would go to either to a Public Works or Parks item, also there will be hearing and then it will go back to council, therefore both the Sub-Committee and Council will vote on it.
 - Commissioner Winbourne opened up the meeting for Commission for comments on the plan, she started her suggestion:
 - She suggested some simple edits on pages 26 she said that there were inconsistencies that would be easy to fix.
 - On page 26 & 75 in the vision statement the words “continue to” needs to be removed.
 - She suggested creating a list of changes to give to Davey Resource.
 - Commissioner Karoway-Waterhouse:
 - Stated there were bad graphics and low resolution on pages 30 & 33.
 - Timelines need to be updated on the implementation section starts on page 91.
 - Color consistency.
 - Suggested a better quote at the beginning Page 14 section 1.
 - Commissioner Wobbe had questions:
 - On page 20 there a color in the map that is not in the key, and vice versa a color in the key that was not on the map. This needs to be corrected.

- On page 40, there's a graphic that talks about tons, it defines the tons as 2200 pounds which is a metric ton not a US ton. Clarify and specify when talking about tons and use the correct conversion.
 - On page 27 is missing planting and it is important to add planting.
 - On page 59 remove figure 16 and the information, it is a duplication.
 - On Page 39 change the language to of plant tree to young tree training.
- Evelyn Hurwitz as well as Deby Cary both spoke in favor of the Master Plan and were thankful to the Commission and the City of Worcester.
- Philly's was online and she congratulated the Commission for their due diligence.
- Commissioner Winbourne thanked Assistant Commissioner Antonelli as well as Forestry Supervisor Brian Breveleri.
- Commissioner Winbourne made a motion to approve the Urban Forestry Master Plan with the condition that the changes mentioned above are made before moving forward. Second by Commissioner Elton. All were in favor. Motion was approved 4 – 0.
- Door Hanger - NA
- Tree Commission attending neighborhood meetings – Update.
- Tree replacement policy – NA
- Neighborhood Based Urban Heat Risk Assessment - NA
- Worcester Now | Next online survey - NA
- Green Worcester Advisory Committee -NA
- Planting –
 - Spring 2024 Planting – Not done yet, planted 120 trees to date.
 - Assistant Commissioner explained that there are many people who do not want trees in front of their houses and that the Forestry Division as well as the office staff is getting the brunt of it from the public who are not happy. He later added that this is one of the reasons he would like the Commission to start attending neighborhood meetings educating people on the importance of trees.
 - Commissioner Karoway-Waterhouse suggested educating people on the benefits of tree planting at neighborhood meetings, and maybe getting some outreach materials that can get handed out to the public.
 - Councilor Pacillo asked what the process is to notify people that a tree is going to be planted in front of the house.
 - Assistant Commissioner Antonelli said that the majority of the trees planted to date had been requested. Other trees planted were streets that were resurfaced and wherever there were open tree pits.
 - Councilor Pacillo said if the city usually sends out a letter notifying people when they resurface streets, she suggested maybe they can add “potential a tree can be planted” as part of that notice.
 - Assistant Commissioner Antonelli explained that they are working logistics with Engineering as well as Transportation and Mobility.
 - Commissioner Karoway-Waterhouse explained that the Commission voted to move Worcester into a pro-active approach rather than by request only regardless of whether or not the resident wants the tree or knows that it's coming, she said they believe that's what needs to be done environmentally for the best Worcester possible.
 - Mr. Breveleri went over the species being used this year, shown below. He stated he should have a final list of planting list with species and locations by the end of July.
 - Hybrids of Elm
 - Kentucky Coffee Tree
 - Red Oak
 - Quercus (decreasing)
 - Red Maple (very small percentage)
 - London Plane

- Commissioner Elton suggested to use the Worcester alerts to notify or give people alerts of tree plantings.
- Assistant Commissioner Antonelli said he could look into it, and check with Emergency Management, and will see what other options there are.
- Assistant Commissioner Antonelli spoke about the map from DCR Greening the Gateway Cities Program in Worcester, it shows the area that they are working in doing some tree planting.
- Commissioner Winbourne suggested having a plan/map of the areas where there will be tree planting where people are not asking for a tree, and that the Commission can work with the Community groups to try to find tree advocates.
- Assistant Commissioner Antonelli agreed that something like that can be done around the beginning of the calendar year.
- There were different suggestions on how to get the word out such as the T&G or through Worcester Public Schools, Neighborhood Centers, Registry system for rental properties.
- Debby Cary asked if there's a map of what's planted and where and can that shared.
- Mr. Breveleri answered yes that is the hope that the platform being using through Davey Resource, staff goes out and then plants them at each specific address and who planted them they are also adding to that future a watering component. The idea is to get the map to GIS to present a map with that.
- Commissioner Elton suggested to look at the New York City Parks Forestry website, it looks like they use Davey Resource Group and it's outstanding. It has the ecological benefits, the DBH of the tree, when it was planted, how much storm water is collecting, how much carbon is sequestering.
- Customer Service Update
 - Customer Service Contact Information 508-929-1300 &/or 311
- Street Resurfacing Opportunities & Challenges – NA
- Zoning Ordinance Discussion - NA
- Worcester Ordinance Relative to the Protection of Public Trees - NA
- Partnerships –
 - New England Botanical Garden @ Tower Hill - NA
- Grant Applications –
 - DCR Grant Program - NA
- Economic Development Initiatives –
 - NA
- Forestry Vandalism & Graffiti –
 - NA
- Donations –
 - NA
- Pests –
 - ALB (Asian Longhorned Beetle) - NA
 - EAB (Emerald Ash Borer) - NA
 - Spotted Lanternfly - NA
 - Elm Zigzag Sawfly – NA
- Forestry Operations –
 - Tree City USA – Update
 - Awarded the Tree City USA designation for the 38th consecutive year.
 - Awarded the Tree City USA Growth Award designation for the 25th consecutive year.
 - Arbor Day – Update
 - April 25, 2025
 - April 26, 2025 – Festival
- Budget – Operational & Capital – NA
 - Parks, Recreation & Cemetery Division – Assistant Commissioner Antonelli discussed operating budget, as per information included in Commission package.

- Capital Improvement Program – Assistant Commissioner Antonelli discussed capital budget, as per information included in Commission package.
- City Five Point Financial Plan – NA
- Misc.
 - There was a discussion regarding upcoming events and how to promote events and inform so the Commission gets informed on Urban Forestry related events.
 - Commissioner Karoway-Waterhouse asked if there's data on how many times the recording for the commission meetings is down.
 - Philly's sent a message based on the discussion of maps> Can the city have a dashboard of the number of trees removed, planted public and private?
 - Assistant Commissioner Antonelli said that the topic had been discussed about with the Commission to start giving them quarterly reports starting in September.
- Date of next meeting – September 11, 2024.
- Commissioner Karoway-Waterhouse made a motion to adjourn at 7:28 PM. Second by Commissioner Winbourne. All were in favor. Motion was approved 4 – 0.

A copy of this full meeting will be available to view and listen to at:
www.worcesterma.gov/city-clerk/public-meetings/agendas-minutes



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Meeting Room A

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Virtual with Teams

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

GENERAL