



URBAN FORESTRY TREE COMMISSION MEETING

Wednesday December 4, 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:

Go to www.teams.com

Enter Meeting ID# 247 158 149 607

Enter password: QaT6hW

If you choose to attend via phone:

Call 1-469-998-7682

Enter Meeting ID#: 314 907 086#

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) – November 20, 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

- 1) Request of Commissioner Winbourne for the Commission to set goals for the Commission
- 2) Request of Commissioner Winbourne to discuss the proposed Worcester Urban Forestry Research Summit
- 3) Update on filling vacancies on the Urban Forestry Tree Commission
- 4) Review City Ordinances on Trees – Fall 2024
[Trees in the City - Right Tree, Right Place | City of Worcester, MA \(worcesterma.gov\)](https://www.worcesterma.gov/2024/08/28/trees-in-the-city-right-tree-right-place/)

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.

- 1) Request to discuss EAB on Ash Trees in Worcester
- 2) Request to discuss Green Island Neighborhood Development Permit and tree planting concerns

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.

- 1) NA

10. Tentative Dates of the Next Meetings:

- January 15, 2025
- February 5, 2025
- March 12, 2025
- April 2, 2025
- May 7, 2025
- June 4, 2025

11. Meeting Adjourned (Roll Call)



URBAN FORESTRY TREE COMMISSION **MINUTES**

Wednesday November 20, 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# 236 402 897 188
- 3) Enter password: 92ccAj

If you choose to attend via phone:

- 1) Call 1-469-998-7682
- 2) Enter Meeting ID#: 488 272 307#

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

AGENDA

1. Called to Order at 6:00
2. Attendance – Commissioners present were:
 - a) Alexander J. Elton
 - b) Robin Karoway-Waterhouse
 - c) Joy Winbourne
 - i. Administration present were:
 1. Robert C. Antonelli, Jr., Assistant Commissioner
 2. Brian Breveleri, Supervisor of Forestry
 3. Dennis Tucker, Working Foreman – (Virtual)
 4. Milagros Pacheco, Staff Assistant 3
3. Acceptance of Minutes for the (Roll Call) – October 9, 2024
 - a) Commissioner Winbourne made a motion to accept the minutes. Second by Commissioner Elton. All were in favor. Motion was approved 3 – 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.

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
 - Commissioner Winbourne made a motion to keep this item in Old Business. Second by Commissioner Karoway-Waterhouse. All were in favor. Motion was approved 2 – 0.
 - Request of Commissioner Winbourne to discuss the proposed Worcester Urban Forestry Research Summit
 - Commissioner Winbourne made a motion to keep this item in Old Business. Second by Commissioner Karoway-Waterhouse. All were in favor. Motion was approved 2 – 0.
 - Update on filling vacancies on the Urban Forestry Tree Commission
 - Commissioner Winbourne made a motion to keep this item in Old Business. Second by Commissioner Karoway-Waterhouse. All were in favor. Motion was approved 3 – 0.
 - Review City Ordinances on Trees – Fall 2024
[Trees in the City - Right Tree, Right Place | City of Worcester, MA \(worcesterma.gov\)](#)
 - Commissioner Winbourne made a motion to keep in Old Business to discuss on the January meeting. Second by Commissioner Elton. All were in favor. Motion was approved 3 – 0.
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.

 - a) NA
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.

 - NA
10. Tentative Dates of the Next Meetings:
 - 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 at 6:41 PM

a) Commissioner Winbourne made a motion to adjourn. Second by Commissioner Elton. All were in favor. Motion was approved 3 – 0.

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER'S REPORT:

1. General

- Urban Forest Master Plan Review
 - Update – Commission Approved Draft available at [Trees in the City - Right Tree, Right Place | City of Worcester, MA \(worcesterma.gov\)](https://www.worcesterma.gov)
 - Assistant Commissioner Antonelli gave an update on the Urban Forest Master Plan, he informed that the Master Plan is now posted online, it went to City Council, and it was referred to a City Council Sub-Committee. He added that there were some excellent responses at City Council. He also said that a discussion needs to be had about tree planting. He said the Master Plan and the policy for tree planting would be separate entities, and that he anticipates the Master Plan be approved quicker than the tree planting policy.
 - Commissioner Karoway-Waterhouse asked if there was any data on how many trees didn't get planted because of homeowners not wanting them.
 - Mr. Breveleri didn't want to give a wrong number, he estimated 50 or more, because they had to find different places to plant them at.
 - Assistant Commissioner explained that the trees were planted they just had to find new locations when they were rejected by the homeowners.
 - Mr. Breveleri said that after the issue with ALB (Asian Longhorned Beetle) they were planting from 600 to 900 trees per year, per planting season, but there was a lot of resistance in some of the neighborhoods.
 - Commissioner Karoway-Waterhouse asked if there was any way to collect the data of the neighborhoods that are resisting to the planting.
 - Mr. Breveleri said it could be done but it would take time to enter it into the software they use for tree tracking.
 - Commissioner Elton said that assuming that some of the refusals are in concentrated areas, they can strategize to go to neighborhood groups, church groups, rec centers and talk to people, including leaders in these neighborhoods, to explain the importance of trees and to try to get them on board with the city.
 - Commissioner Winbourne asked how the trees being tracked.
 - Mr. Breveleri explained that they enter it into the Davey Software, the type of tree and the location.
 - Commissioner Winbourne suggested the report of the trees to have 3 categories "Got planted", "Someone didn't want it" or "There's some physical reason it could be planted"
 - Commissioner Karoway-Waterhouse said she wouldn't need to know the reason why a person didn't want a tree, she just wanted to look at the data of areas where the more refusals.
 - Assistant Commissioner said they are currently going out to bid for Tree Planting with a new contract specifically for ARPA. He said there was some funding coming in from the department of Sustainability and Resiliency and they need to have the right language to meet the ARPA requirements.
- Quarterly Review of Forestry Work - 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 - NA
- Customer Service Update
 - Customer Service Contact Information 508-929-1300 &/or 311
- Street Resurfacing Opportunities & Challenges – NA
- Zoning & Planning Ordinance Discussion - NA
- Worcester Ordinance Relative to the Protection of Public Trees - Update
- 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 – NA
 - 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
- Budget – Operational & Capital – NA
 - Parks, Recreation & Cemetery Division – NA
 - Capital Improvement Program – NA
 - City Five Point Financial Plan – NA

URBAN FORESTRY TREE COMMISSION MEETING

Wednesday December 4, 2024 – 6:00 P.M.

Parks, Recreation & Cemetery Administrative Office

Meeting Room A

50 Officer Manny Familia Way Worcester, MA 01605

Or

Virtual with Teams

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

GENERAL



ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER'S REPORT:

1. General

- 1) Urban Forest Master Plan Review
 - a) Update – Commission Approved Draft available at [Trees in the City - Right Tree, Right Place | City of Worcester, MA \(worcesterma.gov\)](#)
- 2) Quarterly Review of Forestry Work - NA
- 3) Tree Commission attending neighborhood meetings – Update
- 4) Tree replacement policy – NA
- 5) Neighborhood Based Urban Heat Risk Assessment - NA
- 6) Worcester Now | Next online survey - NA
- 7) Green Worcester Advisory Committee -NA
- 8) Planting –
 - a) Spring 2024 Planting - NA
- 9) Customer Service Update
 - a) Customer Service Contact Information 508-929-1300 &/or 311
- 10) Street Resurfacing Opportunities & Challenges – NA
- 11) Zoning & Planning Ordinance Discussion - NA
- 12) Worcester Ordinance Relative to the Protection of Public Trees - NA
- 13) Partnerships –
 - a) New England Botanical Garden @ Tower Hill - NA
- 14) Grant Applications –
 - a) DCR Grant Program - NA
- 15) Economic Development Initiatives –
 - a) NA
- 16) Forestry Vandalism & Graffiti –
 - a) NA
- 17) Donations –
 - a) NA
- 18) Pests –
 - a) ALB (Asian Longhorned Beetle) - NA
 - b) EAB (Emerald Ash Borer) - NA
 - c) Spotted Lanternfly - NA
 - d) Elm Zigzag Sawfly – NA
- 19) Forestry Operations –
 - a) Tree City USA – NA
 - Awarded the Tree City USA designation for the 38th consecutive year
 - Awarded the Tree City USA Growth Award designation for the 25th consecutive year
 - b) Arbor Day – Update
 - April 25, 2025
- 20) Budget – Operational & Capital – NA
 - a) Parks, Recreation & Cemetery Division – NA
 - b) Capital Improvement Program – NA
 - c) City Five Point Financial Plan – NA
- 21) Misc.