

CITY OF EAST PROVIDENCE
East Providence Tree Commission
Regular Meeting, November 14, 2022

1. CALL TO ORDER: 6:450 PM. Dr. Carol Auer, Chairperson
2. ROLL CALL: Present: Dr. Carol Auer; Joe Gibson, Jenn Tierney, Johanna Walczak, Claire Tierney. Absent: Council member Anna Sousa, with notification; Tony Viera, Parks Department; Ronald Nawrocki, Tree Warden.
3. Approval of last meeting minutes: J. Tierney moved to approve. C. Tierney seconded. Unanimously approved.
4. Public comment Period:
Candy Seele, Dan Baudouin, and Heather Andrade asked the Commission to support the design guidelines from the group Keep Metacomet Green for the upcoming development. They are asking for recommendations of a higher caliper tree and a 70-ft buffer zone.
5. Old Business
 - a) EP Tree Commission webpage - Carol Auer will meet with city staff this week to develop the web page.
 - b.) Tree planting projects
 1. Orlo Ave Elementary School – The tree planting event was a success with ten trees planted and 20 volunteers. Four more trees will be planted for 14 trees total. The next action will be ensuring maintenance in the spring.
 2. Hennessey Elementary School - The site was selected by the RI Infrastructure Bank for technical assistance for engineering assistance and stormwater management mitigation. No design is available at this time. Planting is expected in spring, 2023.
 3. Bullocks Avenue planting - A consultant conducted a survey on Bullocks Point Ave and recommended prioritizing the setback planting. He found six street tree pits available for planting. Some trees have been planted in Riverside using the city's setback program.
 4. Study of Dover Avenue right of way and tree sites: No new action.
6. New Business

a) City Forester position - The City Council approved \$50k for a City Forester in the 2022-2023 budget.

b) Update on Capital Improvements Budgets for Trees - \$36,000 is still available from 2020 and 2022. 76 trees were planted in 2022. The Mayor would like to plant 200 trees in 2023.

c) Correspondence to the Commission – A letter was received from the Keep Metacomet Green group requesting comment on the waterfront commission guidelines for development at Metacomet.

7. Liaison report - Johanna described a state grant program that would support pesticide treatment of ash trees in the city to prevent Emerald Ash Bore. No application has been submitted at this time.

Draft minutes prepared by Committee Secretary, January 17, 2023