

**CITY OF EAST PROVIDENCE
East Providence Tree Commission**

Regular Meeting, May 4, 2023

1. CALL TO ORDER: 7:04 PM, Carol Auer, Chairperson
2. ROLL CALL: Present: Carol Auer, Joe Gibson, Jenn Tierney, Johanna Walczak, Claire Tierney.
Absent: Council member Anna Sousa (with notification), Ronald Nawrocki, Tree Warden. Guests: Mayor DaSilva, Erica Martins.
3. Approval of minutes: J. Tierney moved to approve. J. Gibson seconded. Unanimously approved.
4. Public comment: Mayor DaSilva swore in Meg Robinson who will be a new member of the Tree Commission. Ms. Robinson lives in Rumford and has attended previous meetings.
5. Old Business
 - a) Tree Planting Projects – Updates were given about each project. The city's setback tree planting project has started. C. Auer prepared a flyer about tree care that will be sent to homeowners. Twenty trees have been planted so far.
6. New Business
 - a) Appeal of Tree Warden's decision on 10 Bailey Street, Rumford – The homeowner had submitted an appeal of the City's recommendation and spoke to the commission regarding the tree. J. Tierney submitted a motion to table the issue until more information is provided by city staff regarding the Tree Warden's report and a legal question. Seconded by C. Tierney. The tree and the property were discussed. J. Gibson gave his professional opinion that the tree was healthy and that the homeowner's renovation of the old driveway would remove any roots of concern. Motion approved unanimously. The Commission will revisit this agenda item at their next meeting in June.
 - b) USFS Urban and Community Forest Program grant proposal – C. Auer explained the grant opportunity and ideas for a proposal from the city. The deadline is June 1.
7. Liaison Report: J. Walczak discussed city actions with regards to Emerald Ash Borer treatment, consultants for the street tree inventory project, contact with Groundworks RI, workshop with the Green Infrastructure Center (consultants) to map the tree canopy, and East Providence as a Tree City USA for 29 years.
8. C. Tierney made a motion to adjourn at 8:20; seconded by J. Tierney. Unanimously approved.

Draft minutes prepared by Committee Secretary, May 4, 2023