

CITY OF EAST PROVIDENCE-TREE COMMISSION
DOCKET-REGULAR MEETING

APRIL 17, 2024

7:00 PM

Conference room A East Providence City Hall
145 Taunton Ave. East Providence, RI 02914

Agenda:

1. Call to Order: 7:08 PM
2. Roll Call: Present: Carol Auer (Chair), Jennifer Tierney (co-chair), Johanna Walczak, (Planning Department), Meg Robinson, Joe Gibson. Absent with notification: Anna Sousa, Claire Tierney. City tree warden absent without notification.
3. Approval of minutes: January, 17, 2024. Approval moved by JT, seconded by JG, unanimous approval.
4. Public comment: Joe Gibson introduced Mr. Joseph Swann, Head of the Science Department at EP High School. Mr. Swann explained the high school curricula in horticulture and the Commission discussed future collaborations, especially the intern positions funded through the Urban and Community Forest Grant. Mr. Swann welcomed the opportunity to work with the commission.
5. New Business:
 - A. Review of the "East Providence Strategic Tree Canopy Plan" from the Green Infrastructure Center (March, 2024). CA presented 2 powerpoint slides summarizing the GIC recommendations. The city's goal was maintaining 34% canopy coverage and increasing approximately 2%. This is equal to planting 1200 trees per year for ten years. CA suggested that TC members study the report recommendation and identify priorities and policies the TC should support. Members agreed to bring suggestions to the July 17 meeting for discussion. CA will convert slides to PDF and distribute to members via email. JT spoke about EP Urban Forest's efforts to designate and photograph notable trees that might be included in a promotional calendar in 2025.
6. Liaison Report from Conservation Commission: MR reported that efforts continue to extend hiking paths around Central Pond and adjacent land in Massachusetts. The Conservation Commission has requested that City Councilors work with to reverse encroachments on city land at the pond. Additional actions are a National Trails Day clean-up project at Hunt's Mills and the annual Earth Day clean-up at Boyden Heights.
7. Liaison Report from City Staff: Johanna Walczak (Planning Department) reported that more ash trees will be treated this spring for Emerald Ash Borer. The final report on the tree inventory is still pending. The USDS Urban and Community Forestry Grant grant is still pending as this date. JT mentioned the importance of a steering committee for grant projects and JW stated this could be initiated soon.
8. Adjournment: 8:58 PM