

**CITY OF EAST PROVIDENCE-TREE COMMISSION
DOCKET-REGULAR MEETING**

January 15, 2025

7:00 PM

Conference room A, East Providence City Hall

145 Taunton Ave. East Providence, RI 02914

Minutes

1. **Call to Order:** 7:03 PM
2. **Roll Call:** Present: Carol Auer, Jennifer Tierney, Meg Robinson, Joseph Gibson, Elizabeth Kinder, Molly Ahern (Planning Department). Absent with notification: Anna Sousa. Absent without notification: Tree Warden.
3. **Approval of minutes:** The minutes of October, 16, 2024 were reviewed. CA moved to approve, JT seconded, and approved unanimously.
4. **Public comment:** No public comment.
5. **New Business:**
 1. Introduction of Molly Ahern, Senior Planner, Planning Department: CA welcomed Molly Ahern as a new hire in the city's Planning Department. She will manage the USDA Urban and Community Forest Grant and serve as liaison to the commission. MA highlighting her education and expertise with GIS modeling. Another introduction was made for Elizabeth Kinder as a new member of the commission. Elizabeth is a professional arborist and nursery owner who lives in Rumford. Everyone enthusiastically welcomed both women.
 2. East Providence Urban Forest Calendar and Updates - JT briefly reviewed the mission of EPUF and their volunteer work in community education supporting EP's urban forest. JT distributed EPUF's 2025 calendar featuring pictures of notable trees that were taken by EP residents. CA highlighted EPUF's role in planting the native tree grove at the Whiteknact Elementary School. Members discussed the possibility of planting groves at other schools.
 3. Green Infrastructure Center - Future support and tree projects- CA reported that Molly Henry from the Green Infrastructure Center has contacted her about funding for projects in EP. Ms. Henry suggested that GIC could provide expertise in GIS modeling for storm water mediation or advice on municipal ordinances. Additionally, there is enough grant money to plant approximately 65 trees. There was discussion about potential projects around the city. MA will meet with GIC.

6. Old business:

1. USDA Urban and Community Forest Grant - Updates: CA had no new information about the grant, but recognized that we are behind schedule in implementation of the projects. MA reported that she has begun working to find interns for the summer.
2. EP Strategic Tree Canopy Plan and Street Tree Inventory: JG reported he and EK met with the Parks department regarding several new tree planting projects including a project at Bold Point Park. CA agreed to make a presentation to the Conservation Commission to highlight the findings in the Tree Inventory and the Strategic Tree Canopy Plan.

7. Liaison Report from Conservation Commission: MR reported a vacant position on the Conservation Commission and suggested that TC members could invite interested parties to apply. Commission projects include extension of the Turner Reservoir hiking route with a parking area at the corner of West Avenue and Newman Avenue.

8. Liaison Report from City Staff - Molly Ahern: MA requested candidates for a steering committee to administer the USDA grant. Members identified several schools that could benefit from the creation of shade and more green space. MR suggested contacting the Trust for Public Lands because it is known to assist in greening schoolyards. She will follow up to see if grants are available.

9. Adjournment: 8:13 PM