



URBAN FORESTRY TREE COMMISSION MEETING

Wednesday March 22, 2023 – 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 WebEx platform:

- 1) Go to www.webex.com
- 2) Click the “join” button on the top right side of the screen
- 3) Enter Meeting ID#: 2304 892 2071
- 4) Enter password: Treecomm3-22

If you choose to attend via phone:

- 1) Call 1-415-655-0001
- 2) Enter Meeting ID#: 2304 892 2071

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Attendance (Roll Call)
3. Acceptance of Minutes for the (Roll Call) – March 1, 2023
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 WebEx 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 *3.

6. Assistant Commissioners Report (See Report Topics Below)

5. Old Business

- NA

6. New Business

- Solar Item (Table until April 12, 2023)

7. Date of Next Meeting:

- April 12, 2023
- May 3, 2023
- June 7, 2023
- September 6, 2023
- October 4, 2023
- November 1, 2023
- December 6, 2023
- January 17, 2024 – New date
- February 28, 2024– New date
- March 20, 2024– New date
- April 3, 2024– New date
- May 1, 2024– New date
- June 5, 2024– New date

8. Meeting Adjourned (Roll Call)



URBAN FORESTRY TREE COMMISSION **MINUTES**

Wednesday March 1, 2023 – 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 WebEx platform:

- 1) Go to www.webex.com
- 2) Click the “join” button on the top right side of the screen
- 3) Enter Meeting ID#: 2309 576 1186
- 4) Enter password: Treecomm3-01

If you choose to attend via phone:

- 1) Call 1-415-655-0001
- 2) Enter Meeting ID#: 2309 576 1186

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Attendance (Roll Call)
 - a. Commissioners Present:
 - i. Alexander Elton – Virtual
 - ii. Joseph Mogel
 - iii. Kristin Wobbe
3. Acceptance of Minutes for the (Roll Call) – December 21, 2022
 - Commissioner Kristin Wobbe made a motion to accept the minutes. Second by Vice Chair Joseph Mogel with the following amendment:
 - “The minutes for December 21, 2022, under the Green Worcester Advisory Committee bullet, on the first page where a news article is mentioned, there’s no mention of the subject being discussed.” The

article contained Mr. Conna's proposal that the city develops policies to minimize future shading impacts of public trees on solar installations".

- All were in favor. Minutes were approved 3 – 0.
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 6. Assistant Commissioners Report (See Report Topics Below)
 5. Old Business
 - NA
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 - Solar Item
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 - March 22, 2023
 - April 12, 2023
 - May 3, 2023
 - June 7, 2023
 - September 6, 2023
 - October 4, 2023
 - November 1, 2023
 - December 6, 2023

7. Meeting Adjourned (Roll Call)

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER'S REPORT:

1. General:

- Door Hanger
 - Example of a door hanger that will be placed on homes after taking down a tree, explaining that there is an option for tree re-plantings and the place to call to put in a request.
 - Commissioner Wobbe had a question regarding a deadline for ordering the tree. Mr. Antonelli explained that there is a deadline in place but there are discussions to change it in order to give nurseries the time to provide trees ordered. Commissioner Wobbe and Commissioner Mogel made suggestions to amend wording on door hanger.
 - There was a question by a meeting attendee as to why trees are automatically replaced when they are taken down. Mr. Antonelli explained that some people don't want the trees and in many cases after planting trees, they had to be removed and replanted elsewhere. Also, that the trees have a better probability of surviving if they are planted where they are wanted and cared for.
 - A suggestion was made to add a website that gives information on why trees are so important.
 - Commissioner Elton agreed with the suggestions already made and recommended the wording be amended to take off the word "unfortunately" as it starts it off on a negative tone. He agreed with giving people a choice to get a tree, but he could be persuaded. He also suggested Fall planting. He also suggested to send out informational texts regarding trees.
 - A meeting attendee had concerns about trees being planted near gas lines. Mr. Antonelli explained that before any tree planting the area is Dig Safe.
 - Mr. Conna a phone attendee had a question the setback program and what the minimum width of a sidewalk below, which you simply can't plant the tree because there's no room.
 - Mr. Antonelli stated that 7 - 8 feet are needed. The majority of the city trees are 2 and a half to 3-inch caliber that we put in the ground, up to 3 feet diameter, so enough space is needed to put the tree in and have enough room for the tree to take in water, but the city is working with Davey Tree to quantify that number and really see what is that minimum.
 - Mr. Conna had a follow up question in reference to the same topic in neighborhoods with 7 feet of space in front of the house.
 - Another meeting attendee commented about the status of tree planting.
 - A virtual meeting attendee stated that the majority of the city are renters, not homeowners and that hangers don't generally get transmitted from the tenant to the property owner, so he suggested the city comes up with a better way of reaching out to the homeowners. He thinks the hangers are good, but they will not reach everyone it needs to.
- Tree Commission attending neighborhood meetings
 - There was a discussion on how to attend neighborhood meetings. All Commissioners present agreed to attending a yearly neighborhood meeting.
- Tree replacement policy
 - Request Only
 - Mandated replacement
- Urban Forestry Master Plan Update – Going through a review in draft form, the though process is to give to the public and Commission for review and discussing at a later meeting.
- Neighborhood Based Urban Heat Risk Assessment – Parts will be included into the report.
- Worcester Now | Next online survey
 - [Priority Goals for Worcester Now | Next are public: Tell us what you think! \(google.com\)](#)
- Green Worcester Advisory Committee
 - Article - Effects of trees on solar panels

- Planting –
 - Spring 2023 Planting - NA
- Customer Service Update
 - Customer Service Contact Information 508-929-1300 &/or 311
- Street Resurfacing Opportunities & Challenges – NA
- Zoning Ordinance Discussion
- Worcester Ordinance Relative to the Protection of Public Trees
- Partnerships –
 - New England Botanical Garden @ Tower Hill - NA
- Grant Applications –
 - NA
- Economic Development Initiatives –
 - NA
- Forestry Vandalism & Graffiti –
 - NA
- Donations –
 - NA
- Forestry Operations –
 - Tree City USA – Submitted
 - ALB (Asian Longhorned Beetle) – Commissioner Wobbe asked for an update.
 - EAB (Emerald Ash Borer) – Commissioner Wobbe asked for an update.
 - Arbor Day – April 28, 2023
- Budget – Operational & Capital – NA
 - Parks, Recreation & Cemetery Division – NA
 - Capital Improvement Program – NA
 - City Five Point Financial Plan – NA
- Misc.
 - Mr. Conna asked regarding Trees and solar item that was reported in the paper. If the subject could be added to a future agenda. Also, the recent news article regarding heat study and the goal of adding something like 35,000 trees.
 - Assistant Commissioner stated that it has not gone down a full road of review at this point, the heat index is included in the Forestry Master Plan talking about where those locations are and planting needs in those in those certain locations, but nothing else has been developed along those lines. He said it would be a little bit more than just going in and planting trees because many of those areas that are tight, with lots of infrastructure, buildings, and other stuff, therefore there needs to be more engineering in order to meet the goal. That is an item that will be brought up that will be discussed with both Sustainability Department as well as Traffic Transportation Mobility. where we sort of move these things forward in a in a way that we're planting, the right tree on the right place. We will be doing our standard planting this year and then looking at sort of the Heat Island piece and other pieces of the planting as we move into the spring of 24 for the next planting season, at this time we're pretty much at capacity or nearing capacity for what we have available for funding. He also added that the Solar Item will be added to New Business to be discussed at the next meeting.
- New Business: N/A
- Date of next meeting – March 1, 2023
- Commissioner Joseph Mogel made a motion to adjourn. Second by Commissioner Kristin Wobbe. All were in favor. 3 – 0 Meeting was adjourned at 7:11 PM.

A copy of this full meeting will be available to view and listen to at:

www.worcesterma.gov/city-clerk/public-meetings/agendas-minutes



ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER'S REPORT:

1. General:

- Arbor Day 2023
- Door Hanger - Update
- Tree Commission attending neighborhood meetings - Update
- Tree replacement policy
 - Request Only
 - Mandated Replacement
- Urban Forestry Master Plan - Update
- Neighborhood Based Urban Heat Risk Assessment - NA
- Worcester Now | Next online survey
 - NA
- Green Worcester Advisory Committee
 - NA
- Planting –
 - Spring 2023 Planting - Update
- Customer Service Update
 - Customer Service Contact Information 508-929-1300 &/or 311
- Street Resurfacing Opportunities & Challenges – NA
- Zoning Ordinance Discussion
- Worcester Ordinance Relative to the Protection of Public Trees
- Partnerships –
 - New England Botanical Garden @ Tower Hill - NA
- Grant Applications –
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Or

Virtual with WebEx

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

GENERAL



Eric D. Batista
City Manager

CITY OF WORCESTER

cm2023jan31092705

Attachment for Item #

8.9 A

February 7, 2023

TO THE WORCESTER CITY COUNCIL

COUNCILORS:

The attached communication relative to "Save the Date" for the 2023 Arbor Day Celebration, as received from Jay J. Fink, P.E., Commissioner, Department of Public Works & Parks, is forwarded for the information of your Honorable Body.

The City of Worcester will be celebrating Arbor Day on the morning of Friday, April 28, 2023. This event will include the planting of a tree and speaking program. In addition to this tree planting on Arbor Day, there are over 250 trees scheduled to be planted during the Spring of 2023. The DPW&P will coordinate and collaborate on this event with the Worcester Horticultural Society (Tower Hill Botanic Garden); Worcester Chamber of Commerce Green Corp; Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation Urban and Community Forestry Program; USDA; National Grid and other partners. Additional information will be forwarded as it becomes available.

I'd like to express my appreciation to the organizations that have dedicated their time and energy to assist the City in replanting trees in our parks and neighborhoods. The enhancement of our City's urban forest is not only aesthetically appealing, it also promotes a healthier and more ecologically balanced environment.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric D. Batista
City Manager



To: Eric D. Batista, City Manager
From: Jay J. Fink, P.E., Commissioner
Date: February 7, 2023
Re: Transmitting Informational Communication Relative to Arbor Day 2023

The Department of Public Works & Parks has tentatively scheduled the 2023 Arbor Day Celebration for Friday, April 28, 2023 and provides this "Save the Date" memo for submission to the City Council.

The City of Worcester is planning a celebration to honor Arbor Day on the morning of Friday, April 28, 2023. Plans for this event include a speaking program and the planting of a tree. Additionally, more than 250 trees will be scheduled to be planted during the Spring of 2023. The DPW&P is coordinating and collaborating this event together with the Worcester Horticultural Society (Tower Hill Botanic Garden); the Worcester Chamber of Commerce Green Corp; Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation Urban and Community Forestry Program; USDA; National Grid and other interested partners. A plan and schedule of events are currently being developed for the celebration on that Friday. Planning also includes an event set to take place over the following weekend to celebrate our urban forest and to acknowledge the environmental impacts trees have on our community. Additional information will be shared as the date approaches. In the meantime, we invite and encourage all to attend; please save the date!

Sincerely,

Jay J. Fink, P.E.
Commissioner, Department of Public Works & Parks

TREE PLANTING

Your tree was removed by the City of Worcester Forestry Division, but we do offer a street tree planting program, as well as a set back planting program.

In order to protect these valuable assets, we need to be careful where and how we plant them. It is important that we plant the correct tree species in a suitable location. Arbor Day Foundation calls this “right tree right place.” Proper planting maximizes the tree’s ability to mature and survive within the urban environment. It also minimizes the environmental impacts and on home utilities costs.

In general, the Forester will adhere to the following guidelines:

- Will plant trees only in the public right of way on public streets
- Will plant trees up to 20’ behind the public right of way with the written permission of the property owner
- Will space trees between 25’-50’ apart depending on species and infrastructure
- Planting beneath overhead electric, cable or telephone lines is limited to ornamental trees only
- Will not plant when underground utilities might damage the tree or if digging will cause damage to the utility
- Will not plant near streetlights, hydrants, and driveways to avoid impacting this infrastructure
- Planting will take place each spring.

Please contact 311 or (508) 929-1300 if you would like a tree planted free of charge to you in front of your property

Deadline for plating request is October 31

Website: www.worcesterma.gov/311

Online request please use this QR Code

Reasons why to replant trees

- Provides shade and can cool neighborhoods
- Cleans out air and reduces the effects of climate change
- Helps save energy
- Increase property value



The City of
WORCESTER

Department of Public Works & Parks

Neighborhood Meetings

All items

Brown Square Neighborhood Meeting

Burncoat/Greendale Neighborhood Meeting

Coes Pond Village Neighborhood Meeting

Columbus Park Neighborhood Meeting

East Mountain Street Neighborhood Meeting

Grafton Hill Neighborhood Meeting

Green Hill Neighborhood Meeting

Green Island Neighborhood Meeting

Hammond Heights Neighborhood Meeting

Harlow Street Neighborhood Meeting

Illinois Street Neighborhood Meeting

Indian Lake Neighborhood Meeting

Kilby St., Gardner St. and Hollis St. Neighborhood Meeting

Knight Street Neighborhood Meeting

Lake View Neighborhood Meeting

Lincoln Village Neighborhood Meeting

Main South Beacon Brightly Neighborhood Meeting

Newton Square Neighborhood Meeting

PACT Neighborhood Meeting

Pasadena Parkway Neighborhood Meeting

Quinsigamond Village Neighborhood Meeting

Saxon Road Neighborhood Meeting

Seabury Heights Apartments Neighborhood Meeting

Shrewsbury Street Neighborhood Meeting

South Lenox Street Neighborhood Meeting

South Worcester Alliance Neighborhood Meeting

Tatnuck Square Neighborhood Meeting

Upsala Street Neighborhood Meeting

Webster Square Neighborhood Meeting

Whittier Terrace Neighborhood Meeting

WHA Community Meetings

All items

- Addison Apartments Community Meeting
- Belmont Tower Apartments Community Meeting
- Booth Apartments Community Meeting
- Curran Terrace Community Meeting
- Elm Park Tower Apartments Community Meeting
- Great Brook Valley Community Meeting
- Greenwood Gardens Community Meeting
- Lafayette Place Apartments Community Meeting
- Lincoln Park Tower Apartments Community Meeting
- Mayside Apartments Community Meeting
- Mill Pond Apartments Community Meeting
- Murray/Wellington Apartments Community Meeting
- Pleasant Tower Apartments Community Meeting
- Webster Square Tower East Community Meeting
- Webster Square Tower West Community Meeting

GREENING THE GATEWAY CITIES



Planting Trees for Energy and Environmental Justice

The Massachusetts Greening the Gateway Cities Program (GGCP) is an environmental and energy efficiency program designed to reduce household heating and cooling energy use by increasing tree canopy cover in urban residential areas in the state's Gateway Cities.

GGCP is a partnership between the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA), the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) Urban & Community Forestry Program, the Department of Energy Resources (DOER), the US Forest Service, and the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), along with Gateway Cities and local grassroots organizations. The program plants trees (ranging from 6ft to 10ft tall) with a goal of covering 5% of the target neighborhoods in new tree canopy cover. Trees are planted by DCR Bureau of Forestry and Urban & Community Forestry crews hired from local communities.

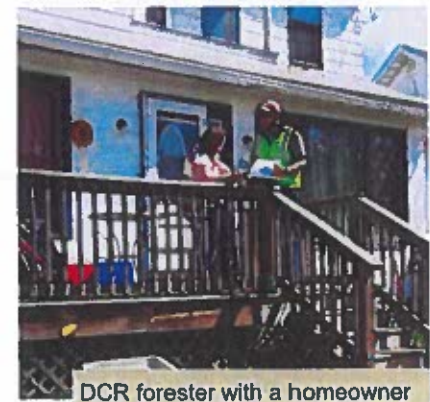
GGCP is based on current research, which includes on-the-ground tree and energy measurements in Worcester and other northern climate cities. These studies show that tree canopy brings the greatest benefits when established over an entire neighborhood area, by lowering wind speeds and reducing summertime air temperature, in addition to the benefits of direct shading. All households in a neighborhood benefit, not just the ones with trees directly adjacent.

This program targets the parts of Gateway Cities that have lower tree canopy, older housing stock, higher wind speeds, and a larger renter population. In addition, plantings are concentrated in Environmental Justice neighborhoods, to benefit those most in need. Within planted areas temperature, energy use, and other information is tracked to document the energy savings new trees provide residents over time.

Neighborhood Level Canopy Cover is Important

Concentrating tree plantings in target areas maximizes energy savings.

Trees near a home directly shade structures, significantly lowering surface temperatures, while trees up to 1,500 feet away from a home still provide a benefit. Program goals are to plant 5 trees per acre, which will reduce the Urban Heat Island effect, and decrease summer air temperatures in city neighborhoods through shading and increased transpiration. Additionally, in the winter months, mature tree trunks and branches help to randomize wind patterns and decrease heat loss by air infiltration in poorly insulated homes.





In high-density urban neighborhoods, planting an average of 5 trees per acre (roughly one third of a block) will provide benefits to 15-25 households, depending on building density. Most trees are planted in yards where they grow quickly with the care provided by residents. Planting this number of trees will increase canopy by an estimated 1% in eight years, and 5% in 30 years. Return on investment is realized as soon as 15 years, after which additional energy savings are realized for the life of the trees.

Benefits Beyond Energy Savings

Large-scale urban plantings provide local employment and economic activity. Tree planting is the only energy efficiency program where almost all of the investments stay in the local economy by hiring local planting crews and growing trees at local nurseries. In addition, healthy urban forest ecosystems improve the water quality of our rivers and bays, the air we breathe, the stability of our neighborhoods, and our sense of community and individual pride.

How Do I Get Involved?

To see if you currently live in one of our active Gateway City planting zones, contact your local GGCP office. If eligible, a DCR forester will come to your property and help determine the best location and species of tree for energy efficiency. Trees are provided free of charge and DCR crews will plant the trees for you. To receive a tree, you must agree to a two year watering commitment, to ensure the tree's survival.

Planting Seasons

Trees are typically planted from April-June in the spring season and September-November in the fall season. Foresters conduct site visits year-round. Call your local GGCP office to schedule an appointment. Leave your name, address (including city) and telephone number, and a forester will respond to schedule a visit.

Bureau of Forestry

Urban & Community Forestry Program

Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation

251 Causeway Street, Suite 600
Boston, MA 02114

www.mass.gov/dcr/ucf



In Partnership with the Massachusetts Tree Wardens' & Foresters' Association, this factsheet series is funded in part by a grant from the USDA Forest Service.

The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation prohibits discrimination in employment on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, ethnicity, gender, gender identity or expression, age, sexual orientation, Vietnam Era Veteran status, or disability.

Additional Information: The GGCP is funded by EEA and DOER. GGCP is administered by the DCR Bureau of Forestry. Please contact DCR's Urban and Community Forestry Program with any questions or comments concerning the Greening the Gateway Cities Program at 617-626-1250.



MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION

Contact Your Local GGCP Office

The Greening the Gateway Cities Program is currently planting in the following locations:

Brockton
617-626-1503

Chelsea
617-626-1459

Chicopee
617-626-1473

Everett
617-626-1459

Fall River
617-626-1571

Fitchburg
617-626-1514

Haverhill
617-626-1516

Holyoke
617-626-1473

Leominster
617-626-1514

Lowell
617-626-1516

Lynn
617-626-1502

Malden
617-626-1456

New Bedford
617-626-1571

Pittsfield
617-626-1515

Quincy
617-626-1570

Revere
617-626-1459

Salem
617-626-1502

Taunton
617-626-1503

Westfield
617-626-1473

Worcester
617-626-1458

Additional GGCP trees are being planted by contractors working in the cities of:

Lawrence
978-974-0770 Ext 7016

Springfield
413-736-3111