



URBAN FORESTRY TREE COMMISSION MEETING

Wednesday May 1, 2024 – 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 Microsoft Teams platform:

- 1) Go to www.teams.com
- 2) Enter Meeting ID# 288 883 105 066
- 3) Enter password: AgkZGP

If you choose to attend via phone:

- 1) Call 1-469-998-7682
- 2) Enter Meeting ID#: 633 657 692#

If technological problems interrupt the virtual meeting component, the meeting will continue in-person.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Attendance (Roll Call)
3. Acceptance of Minutes for the (Roll Call) – March 20, 2024
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 Teams 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 *5.

6. Assistant Commissioners Report (See Report Topics Below)

7. Old Business

- Request of Commissioner Winbourne for the Commission to set goals for the Commission
- Request of Commissioner Winbourne to discuss the proposed Worcester Urban Forestry Research Summit
- Discuss plan for subcommittee meeting with Davey

8. New Business

Agenda items must be submitted (3) three business days before each Commission Meeting with subject line "Agenda Item" to worcestertrees@worcesterma.gov.

- District four Commission Member Update
- Request of Commissioner Karoway-Waterhouse on MA State Champion Trees

9. Tabled Items

Tabled agenda items cannot be discussed at a meeting until it has been moved to old business. The item must be requested and approved during the previous meeting to be included on the next agenda.

- Request of Commissioner Winbourne to discuss Green School Yard Program
- Review City Ordinances on Trees – Fall 2024
[Trees in the City - Right Tree, Right Place | City of Worcester, MA \(worcesterma.gov\)](#)
- NA

10. Date of Next Meeting:

- June 5, 2024
- September 11, 2024
- October 9, 2024
- October 30, 2024
- December 4, 2024
- January 15, 2025
- February 5, 2025
- March 12, 2025
- April 2, 2025
- May 7, 2025
- June 4, 2025

11. Meeting Adjourned (Roll Call)



URBAN FORESTRY TREE COMMISSION **MINUTES**

Wednesday March 20, 2024 – 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 Microsoft Teams platform:

- 1) Go to www.teams.com
- 2) Enter Meeting ID# 271 466 935 961
- 3) Enter password: KtrNBR

If you choose to attend via phone:

- 1) Call 1-469-998-7682
- 2) Enter Meeting ID#: 341 642 430#

If technological problems interrupt the virtual meeting component, the meeting will continue in-person.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order – 6:00 pm
2. Attendance (Roll Call) – Commissioners Present were:
 - a. Alexander Elton
 - b. Joseph Mogel – Virtual
 - c. Joy Winbourne
 - d. Kristin Wobbe
3. Acceptance of Minutes for the (Roll Call) – January 17, 2024 & February 28, 2024.
 - a. Commissioner Wobbe made a motion to approve the minutes for January 17, 2024. Second by Commissioner Elton. All were in favor. Motion was approved 4 – 0.
 - b. Commissioner Wobbe made a motion to approve the minutes for February 28, 2024. Second by Commissioner Elton. All were in favor. Motion was approved 4 – 0.
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 Teams 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 *5.
6. Assistant Commissioners Report (See Report Topics Below)
7. Old Business
 - Request of Commissioner Winbourne to discuss Green School Yard Program –
Commissioner Elton made a motion to table this item until the May meeting. Second by Commissioner Wobbe. All were in favor. Motion was approved 4 – 0.
 - Request of Commissioner Winbourne to discuss Audubon Report on Solar –
Commissioner Wobbe made a motion to file this item. Second by Commissioner Elton. All were in favor. Motion was approved 4 – 0.
 - Request of Commissioner Winbourne for the Commission to set goals for the Commission
Commissioner Winbourne would like to circle back in the fall to get work with Davey on the City Ordinances.
Commissioner Wobbe made a motion to table item to the new table section of the agenda. Second by Commissioner Elton. Motion was approved 4 – 0.
 - Review City Ordinances on Trees
[Trees in the City - Right Tree, Right Place | City of Worcester, MA](https://www.worcesterma.gov/2021/05/12/trees-in-the-city-right-tree-right-place/)
[worcesterma.gov](https://www.worcesterma.gov)
Commissioner Wobbe said she went on to the Worcester Ordinance on public trees and noticed that there is a section of the ordinance, which allows for the removal of public shade trees to provide parking off street parking spaces. The ordinance was written in 2006, and she wondered if parking spaces should be prioritized over public shade trees.
Assistant Commissioner explained that Worcester is a city with many areas that have small streets and full of 4-deckers in which case there could be 1 or 2 cars for each floor. He said in the winter it is a challenge to plow the small streets with vehicles everywhere, so the thought pattern when they created this ordinance was to try to balance in regard to, how to get cars off the street while still preserving trees. So, when this happens and a homeowner petitions a

tree removal for the purpose of putting in a driveway, they have to go through a tree hearing, and they have to pay not only for the removal of the tree but also for the replacement of a tree based on that tree's DBH, other reasons are if the tree's roots are going into a sewer line or if roots are uprooting and lifting the sidewalk.

Commissioner Elton said that there is room for improvement on the ordinance language.

Further discussions were had regarding planting, funding, the process and the language of the ordinance.

Commissioner Wobbe made a motion to table to the new table section in the agenda. Second by Commissioner Elton. All were in favor. Motion was approved 4 – 0.

- Worcester Urban Forestry Research Summit

Commissioner Winbourne said she wanted open up a discussion as a reminder of the goal for setting a summit. There were 2 goals: One was to focus on educating people about caring for trees, and Two was more focused on bringing together area experts to set canopy goals with existing data sets, experts from Clark, WPI, Worcester State, and across the state that are working on understanding urban heat islands and the role of canopy and other climate change resiliency issues. She said her idea is to have it at the end of summer and to start planning as a Commission, putting together a list of people to reach out to and an agenda.

There was a brief discussion on this, on who to invite.

Commissioner Elton made a motion to table this item. Second by Commissioner Wobbe. All were in favor. Motion was approved 4 – 0.

8. New Business

Agenda items must be submitted (3) three business days before each Commission Meeting with subject line "Agenda Item" to worcestertrees@worcesterma.gov.

- Discuss plan for subcommittee meeting with Davey
Commissioner Elton made a motion to table. Second by Commissioner Wobbe. All were in favor. Motion was approved 4- 0.
- Discuss Wigwam Hill Development
Commissioner Winbourne spoke about a development that going in on an area UMass, which is a beautiful chunk of forest and it under threat to development. She wanted to bring this up as example.
Commissioner Wobbe made a motion to file this item. Second by Commissioner Elton. All were in favor. Motion was approved 4 – 0.
- Discuss meeting location
They discussed the probability of having a meeting at City Hall. Assistant Commissioner Antonelli recommended keeping the meetings at 50 Officer Manny Familia Way as City Hall has a very busy schedule in their meeting rooms.
Commissioner Wobbe made a motion to file this item. Second by Commissioner Elton. All were in favor. Motion was approved 4 – 0.

9. Date of Next Meeting:
- May 1, 2024
 - June 5, 2024
10. Meeting Adjourned (Roll Call)

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER'S REPORT:

1. General:

- Urban Forestry Master Plan Review
 - Assistant Commissioner informed that he has been working with Davey to make some of the changes and finalized the Master Plan but there wasn't a hard copy available.
- Door Hanger - NA
- Tree Commission attending neighborhood meetings – There was a discussion on what to add to the agenda or information packages to bring to the meetings to start in the fall.
- Tree replacement policy – NA
- Neighborhood Based Urban Heat Risk Assessment - NA
- Worcester Now | Next online survey - NA
- Green Worcester Advisory Committee -NA
- Planting –
 - Spring 2024 Planting - NA
- Customer Service Update
 - Customer Service Contact Information 508-929-1300 &/or 311
- Street Resurfacing Opportunities & Challenges – NA
- Zoning Ordinance Discussion - NA
- Worcester Ordinance Relative to the Protection of Public Trees - NA
- Partnerships –
 - New England Botanical Garden @ Tower Hill - NA
- Grant Applications –
 - DCR Grant Program - NA
- Economic Development Initiatives –
 - NA
- Forestry Vandalism & Graffiti –
 - NA
- Donations –
 - NA
- Pests –
 - ALB (Asian Longhorned Beetle) - NA
 - EAB (Emerald Ash Borer) - NA
 - Spotted Lanternfly - NA
 - Elm Zigzag Sawfly – NA
- Forestry Operations –
 - Tree City USA – NA
 - Arbor Day –
 - April 26, 2024
 - April 27, 2024 – Festival
- Budget – Operational & Capital – NA
 - Parks, Recreation & Cemetery Division – NA

- Capital Improvement Program – NA
 - City Five Point Financial Plan – NA
- Misc.
- Date of next meeting – May 1, 2024.
- Commissioner Elton made a motion to adjourn at 7:06 PM. Second by Commissioner Wobbe. All were in favor. Motion was approved 4 – 0.

A copy of this full meeting will be available to view and listen to at:
www.worcesterma.gov/city-clerk/public-meetings/agendas-minutes

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Parks, Recreation & Cemetery Administrative Office

Meeting Room A

50 Officer Manny Familia Way Worcester, MA 01605

Or

Virtual with Teams

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

GENERAL



ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER'S REPORT:

1. General:

- Urban Forestry Master Plan Review
 - Update
- Door Hanger - NA
- Tree Commission attending neighborhood meetings – Update
- Tree replacement policy – NA
- Neighborhood Based Urban Heat Risk Assessment - NA
- Worcester Now | Next online survey - NA
- Green Worcester Advisory Committee -NA
- Planting –
 - Spring 2024 Planting - Update
- Customer Service Update
 - Customer Service Contact Information 508-929-1300 &/or 311
- Street Resurfacing Opportunities & Challenges – NA
- Zoning Ordinance Discussion - NA
- Worcester Ordinance Relative to the Protection of Public Trees - NA
- Partnerships –
 - New England Botanical Garden @ Tower Hill - NA
- Grant Applications –
 - DCR Grant Program - NA
- Economic Development Initiatives –
 - NA
- Forestry Vandalism & Graffiti –
 - NA
- Donations –
 - NA
- Pests –
 - ALB (Asian Longhorned Beetle) - NA
 - EAB (Emerald Ash Borer) - NA
 - Spotted Lanternfly - NA
 - Elm Zigzag Sawfly – NA
- Forestry Operations –
 - Tree City USA – Update
 - Awarded the Tree City USA designation for the 38th consecutive year
 - Awarded the Tree City USA Growth Award designation for the 25th consecutive year
 - Arbor Day – Update
 - April 25, 2025
 - April 26, 2025 – Festival
- Budget – Operational & Capital – NA
 - Parks, Recreation & Cemetery Division – NA
 - Capital Improvement Program – NA
 - City Five Point Financial Plan – NA
- Misc.

