

CITY OF NEWPORT TREE AND OPEN SPACE COMMISSION

Annual Report 2018

ATTACHED TO THIS REPORT ARE AGENDAS AND MINUTES FROM COMMISSION MEETINGS THROUGHOUT 2018. BELOW ARE HIGHLIGHTS BY MONTH

1. January 2018

The City of Newport City Council accepted the Open Space Master Plan from the Newport Open Space Partnership, of which the Commission is a member.

2. February 2018

Restoration and repair projects started at Eisenhower Park, Queen Anne Square, Kings Park (Rochambeau monument), and Miantonomi Park.

3. March 2018

The Commission voted to act as the public forum for the Newport Open Space Partnership and to draft an ordinance to that effect to present to the City Council.

4. April 2018

The Commission does not hold a singular meeting in April due to all the Arbor Day and Arboretum Week events. Members volunteer and participate in 2 weeks of events focusing on education, and access to the parks, trees and open spaces in the City of Newport.

5. May 2018

Newport Middle Passage, a nonprofit group planning to construct a memorial to the local point of entry of slaves, presented their ideas for public art in Liberty Square.

6. June 2018

English Oaks continue to be on the decline throughout the city. The tree planting plan to help augment this loss was completed by the Tree Warden and the Department of Public Services staff.

7. July and August 2018

Due to vacations and conflict, the Commission foregoes meeting during these months. Urgent matters are handled via email. There were no matters that arose.

8. September 2018

Restroom design, location and color were approved for Miantonomi Park.

9. October 2018

A local resident who offered to donate personal statuary for an area park appeared before the Commission.

10. November 2018

Lighting upgrades to the football parks are in process; Eisenhower Park fence restoration completed; Edwards Street park will be getting a new sidewalk, fencing and benches.

11. December 2018

Due to holiday commitments at end of month by members, the meeting was cancelled.

AGENDA

TREE AND OPEN SPACE COMMISSION

Tuesday, January 30, 2018

6:00 pm

NEWPORT CITY LIBRARY --- ROTARY ROOM

TREE UPDATE

OPEN SPACE UPDATE

EVENT/PROJECT

Tree Path Project

PARK IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS AND UPDATES

MLK Park

Touro Park

Miantonomi

Morton

Cardines

PLANTING PLAN

ATB Grant focused on coastal plantings

Bare Root planting

Meadow restoration at Miantonomi

GRANTS AND PARTNERSHIPS

GENERAL INFORMATION

AGENDA

TREE AND OPEN SPACE COMMISSION

Tuesday, February 27, 2018

6:00 pm

NEWPORT CITY LIBRARY --- ROTARY ROOM

TREE UPDATE

OPEN SPACE UPDATE

Newport Open Space Partnership

EVENT/PROJECT

Arbor Day management assistance

Newport Health Equity Zone Miantonomi Farmers Market

PARK IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS AND UPDATES

Newport Bike Barn

Eisenhower Fence bid

QAS Fountain

Rochambeau Project

PLANTING PLAN

Bare root supply issues / spring planting program

GRANTS AND PARTNERSHIPS

GENERAL INFORMATION

AGENDA

TREE AND OPEN SPACE COMMISSION

Tuesday, March 27, 2018

6:00 pm

NEWPORT CITY LIBRARY --- ROTARY ROOM

TREE UPDATE

OPEN SPACE UPDATE

Newport Open Space Partnership – discussion about communication role

EVENT/PROJECT

Arbor Day Plans

PARK IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS AND UPDATES

Recent Storm damage
ATB Grant
Miantonomi Park projects update
Touro Park Old Stone Mill bids
Eisenhower Park fence restoration
Cliff Walk spring construction
King Park projects update
Morton & Edward St playgrounds
Marsh St island adopt a spot

PLANTING PLAN

Spring Tree Planting

GRANTS AND PARTNERSHIPS

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AGENDA

TREE AND OPEN SPACE COMMISSION

Tuesday, May 29, 2018

6:00 pm

NEWPORT CITY LIBRARY --- ROTARY ROOM

EVENT/PROJECT

Presentation by Middle Passage Ceremonies and Port Markers Project

TREE UPDATE

OPEN SPACE UPDATE

Newport Open Space Partnership – discussion about proposed ordinance

PARK IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS AND UPDATES

PLANTING PLAN

GRANTS AND PARTNERSHIPS

GENERAL INFORMATION

Discussion around use of metal detection in parks

AGENDA

TREE AND OPEN SPACE COMMISSION

Tuesday, June 26, 2018

6:00 pm

NEWPORT CITY LIBRARY --- ROTARY ROOM

EVENT/PROJECT

TREE UPDATE

OPEN SPACE UPDATE

PARK IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS AND UPDATES

PLANTING PLAN

GRANTS AND PARTNERSHIPS

GENERAL INFORMATION

AGENDA

TREE AND OPEN SPACE COMMISSION

Tuesday, September 25, 2018

6:00 pm

NEWPORT CITY LIBRARY --- ROTARY ROOM

EVENT/PROJECT

TREE UPDATE

OPEN SPACE UPDATE

NEWPORT TREE CONSERVANCY PARTNERSHIP

EAB Treatment

Internship Program

Container Program

Arboretum

PARK IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS AND UPDATES

PLANTING PLAN

GRANTS AND PARTNERSHIPS

GENERAL INFORMATION

AGENDA

TREE AND OPEN SPACE COMMISSION

Tuesday, October 30, 2018

6:00 pm

NEWPORT CITY LIBRARY --- ROTARY ROOM

EVENT/PROJECT

TREE UPDATE

OPEN SPACE UPDATE

NEWPORT TREE CONSERVANCY PARTNERSHIP

PARK IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS AND UPDATES

PLANTING PLAN

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TREE AND OPEN SPACE COMMISSION

Tuesday, November 27, 2018

6:00 pm

NEWPORT CITY LIBRARY --- ROTARY ROOM

EVENT/PROJECT

Proposed donation by Newport resident George Mattegat

TREE UPDATE

OPEN SPACE UPDATE

NEWPORT TREE CONSERVANCY PARTNERSHIP

PARK IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS AND UPDATES

PLANTING PLAN

GRANTS AND PARTNERSHIPS

GENERAL INFORMATION

NTOS Commission 30 January 2018

Present: Scott Wheeler, Maureen Cronin, Rob Currier, Lisa Perrault, Dennis Demers, Michael Potter (new member)

Tree Warden's Report:

NTS is assisting with the \$4000 ATB grant for Spencer, and King Parks tree replacements.

Trees for the Centennial Garden have been approved. Problems with ordering from Schmidt Nursery directly will need solution.

A review on the Open space partnership....this includes ALT, NTS, AIPC, and the City. The City has accepted the Open Space Master Plan. This plan has our mission, and is a planning document with idea within our abilities. A mandate of partnership is transparency. The Partnership recommends the NTOS to be a vehicle for public exposure, and to air the workings of the Partnership. NTOS is an open group, and an advisory group. A vote to accept his leadership role and ordinance will be scheduled for the February when we will have a quorum.

The Open Space Master Plan has a list of projects; about 25% of those projects are already in the works.

Saturday 10 February 9:30 - 12:30 there is a HEZ meeting at the Florence Gray Centre.

The Tree Path Project is scheduled to commence in April, and terminate in the end of June. The route has also been shortened. The Miantinomi Park Commission is looking for more information.

MLK....new playground

Morten Park new playground

Miantinomi Park:

- The tower to be structurally assessed

- The restrooms to be rejuvenated through a grant

- Island Partnership survey work done on smoothing out the meadow by the Maher Centre

- A grant has been submitted for 2/3 of the cost of Tower plaques

Cardines Field infield replacement work has been completed. New rubber surfaces for the front of the duggouts will be done.

Funds are being raised to make Coggeshall Park ADA compliant

The cement block utility building in King Park has been demolished

There are funds remaining after the completed lighting work in Eisenhower Park. Next item will be the repair fo the iron fence.

Great news that Alliance Français will fund the restoration of Rochambeau statue, and pyramid podium.

Newport Tree and Open Space Commission

27 February 2018 6pm

Present: Maureen Cronin, Lisa Perrault, Adrienne Haylor, Rob Currier, Stephanie Szneke, Tim Brown, Scott Wheeler

Our source for bare-root, and potted stock has changed the way of doing business, resulting in a 60% increase per item. Trees for King, Spencer, and Farazolli (sp) parks will be sourced out at Kinder Bros. Nursery. Coices for trees on Ledge road would be limited to cherry, due to the harsh environment.

Newport Open Space Partnership (NOSP) - We will need to vote on our role as the public venue for this partnership. NOSP master plan has been accepted by the City. We have agreed to review the master plan, and vote on our role. This would include writing an ordinance including our role. Public discussion on any matters concerning this partnership will be aired at our regular NTOS meetings. We (the NTOS) will be the public face to manage this process. This is a vital component of this organization (NOSP).

Arbor Day is a commission event. This year's activities will be held at the new grow house at Rogers High School.

The Farmers Market will be at Miantinomi Park. There is a conflict with some planned utility construction in that same area. Some trees will need to be removed, requiring a permit. Time schedule is unclear, but the farmers Market does have a spot there.

Bike Newport will be doing a bike barn for storage, repair, and community biking. Eisenhower Park fence bid is for restoration work. The interior fence will be removed. The problems with the Queen Anne Square (QAS) fountain focuses on a loss of a significant amount of water, which will require breaking down the system to determine the problem. Alliance Français is prepared to go forward with the repair of the Rochambeau monument. First order will be the repair of the stone podium. QMV masonry will be doing the actual work.

The restroom facilities at Miantinomi Park, and the field drainage situation there as well, are projects of immediate concern

Newport Tree and Open Space Commission

27 March 2018

Present: Michael Potter; Stephanie Szneke; Maureen Cronin; Scott Wheeler;
Susan Taylor; Rob Currier; Dennis Demers

Discussion, and a vote accepting NTOS as the public venue to discuss all issues pertaining to parks, and open space. This is in conjunction with the master plan drawn up by Susaki Ass. This is the critical component to airing problems, and concerns, giving the life-blood to this important document. A written ordinance to our charter to present to the City Council will follow.

Arbor Day, Arboretum Week, Earth Day will all be happening starting 20 April. Activities directly involving NTOS will be the tree planting and open house at the grow house, (the Tree House), at Rogers High School. This very exciting new initiative is a product of the Newport Tree Society.

Trees are down, branches are hanging all over town due to the recent round of 3 storms.

NTS is working on a \$15000 tree planting program for Spencer, King Parks, Pell School, Marazolli Park, and Morten Park.

Bids are complete for the field renovation at Miantinomi Park, with financial help from Island Waters .

Grant work is underway for the restoration of the restrooms, maybe next Spring construction.

Bike Newport is moving forward on the bike shed-storage building at Miantinomi Park. Memorial plaques for the Park, and Tower will be arriving soon. These are replicas of the original....looking for a Memorial Day opening.

The utility work is commencing at the park.

The bid is out for the repair of the cracks in the Old Mill tower. We have \$25000 in CIP funds.

Steel Giraffe will be doing the fence restoration in Eisenhower Park. Any funds remaining may be put to the lighting.

Cliff Walk painting is underway, and some stone repair in front as well.

Alliance Française will be doing the improvements on the Rochambeau statue, and podium. , and the side of the seawall facing Ida Lewis.

Everett Street playground started some renovation work.

The Pell School outdoor classroom cover has started to take shape.

Newport Shipyard will be sponsoring some planting on the Marsh Street island.

Storer Park will be getting a permanent tree planting, a suitable Christmas-Holiday tree.

The contractor of the Gateway project is responsible for the maintenance this year.

Bareroot applications are out for the general public. Also the NTS has the annual tree giveaway.

Newport Tree and Open Space Commission

29 May 2018

Present; Michael Potter, Tom Sullivan, Rob Currier, Scott Wheeler, Maureen Cronin, Lisa Perrault, Adrienne Haylor,

Representatives from the Newport Middle Passage Port Marker Project (newportmiddlepassage.org) presented the commission with a copy of the sign they plan on setting up in Liberty Park. City Council has given approval to this organization the use of this park. In the early planning stages, the ultimate goal is to construct a memorial to this local point of entry of slaves. The idea envisions a public piece of art. This is part of a larger organization on the east coast, recognizing the impact, and significance of the slave trade. The sites mark the numerous points of entry.

The grounds crew is behind in tree planting. 4 more trees in King Park show signs of poisoning. 3 trees will replace poisoned elms. English oaks are continuing to decline. At Eisenhower Park, the interior fence has been removed. The cost of the Miantinomi play field is almost \$2000 under budget.

Grants received for new Miantinomi restrooms, and tennis courts. Vernon Park work includes rebuilding , and lining for tennis, pickle, and junior tennis courts.

MLK Park needs improved fencing.

Miantinomi Park unveiled the new memorial plaque.

Friends of Waterfront concerts continue.

The Garden Club has funding for the lighting of their project in Aquidneck Park.

New mower contractor is behind in work.

The handicap sidewalk at Morten Park is not yet complete due to weather-related set backs.

The Commission voted in favor to accept an addition to our ordinance. This will enable the NTOS to be the public forum for concerns, discussions, and open transparency for the Newport Open Space Partnership. The masterplan requires public involvement. This commission is more of an advisory one to the Council, rather than a regulatory one. Being the site for public comment, and discussion will increase our advisory value.

Wilbur Cemetary has been making positive moves in the restoration of stones.

Colleen Magrath (Director of Ballard Park) was present to bring forth to us the schedule of upcoming events.

Newport Tree and Open Space Commission

26 June 2018

Present: Scott Wheeler, Rob Currier, Dennis Demers, Stephanie Szneke, Lisa Perrault, Colleen McGrath, Maureen Cronin, Susan Taylor, Michael Potter

At last month's meeting, a sign was requested from the Newport Middle Passage Port Marker Project of the size of 36" x 24". The sign size has increased to 48" x 36"....it is all assembled, and ready for installation.

August 22 Roger Williams students will come to Newport to perform a civic project of fence painting at the Common Burying Ground.

24 August is the celebration of Newport Arboreta . The registered arboreta in town will all be open for visitation. This is a fundraiser sponsored by the Newport Tree Society.

The Tree Warden reports that all the tree planting has been completed. English Oaks are still in serious decline. This problem seems to be specific to English Oaks.

2 trees in King Park near the band stand continue to decline due to poisoning.

Newport Open Space Partnership new website should up, and running within a few weeks.

Miantinomi play hut will kick off this week. Lunch will be available 5 days a week.

The playfield at Miantinomi Park is getting improvements by JAM.

Half of the fence restoration at Eisenhower Park is complete.

The City Council has approved grants to upgrade the restrooms at Miantinomi Park, and the pickle ball courts.

The city, and Utilities will be restoring Braga Park parking lot.

Storer Park will be having some serious excavation due to installation of large drain line, and a check valve, to control flood waters. Access may have to be right through the center of the park, in order to pump out 4 times a year. Discussion not complete. A Pagoda Tree on third street was removed.

Colleen McGrath passed the annual report for Ballard Park.

Newport Tree and Open Space Commission

Tuesday September 25, 2018

Present: Susan Taylor, Rob Currier, Tim Brown, Lisa Perrault, Scott Wheeler, Maureen Cronin, Michael Potter, Elizabeth Fuerte

Upcoming event is the Broadway Street Fair the first weekend of October. The Italian Festival is the last weekend in September.

The English oak mortality issue continues to be a major time expense for the forestry crew. The crew will be breaking off of this for tree planting.

Lisette Prince has generously offered to fund a major planting at Miantinomi Park. This will include a birch grove, and other tree plantings.

Another sponsor has offered to fund an allée; site to be determined.

Local nurseryman Sam Kinder has very kindly offered to act as a 'low-cost' middle man in order for the city to purchase container, and bare-root specimens.

Freebody Park will be getting new high efficiency LED lights. Plans are also to restore the stands.

Eisenhower Park...the structural part of fence is completed, by Steel Giraffe.

Cardine Field will be getting new dugout rubber.

King Park... the stone pyramid restoration is complete. the caldren, and statue will, too, be restored, as well as the rebuilding of the sea wall.

Van Zandt Pier work will include the steps, and the pier.

Grants for JAM for approved compost for Miantinomi Field. Hopefully any excess funds can be put to soccer goals.

Restroom design, and color has been approved by the Miantinomi Park Commission. New location also approved.

Vernon Park...soil test needed for the structure.

The website is complete for the Open Space Partnership... a few details in language need completion.

Proposals are going out for treatment of ash trees, for the prevention of Emerald Ash Borer.

The Newport Tree Conservancy (formerly Newport Tree Society) has been funding an intern for the city.

27 November Newport Tree and Open Space Commission

Present: Scott Wheeler, Maureen Cronin, Adrienne Haylor, Lisa Perrault, Tom Sullivan, Rob Currier

George Mattegat was present to discuss his gift to the City of the public sculptures. First choice is the beach, but first it must clear the beach commission channels.

Holiday lights, banners, city hall tree are all going up for the holiday season. 30 wreaths along Broadway, 23 from Truro Park to the Audrain building.

25 of the 33 trees have been planted thus far this Fall. We are waiting for some drying-drainage of surface water to complete Miantinomi planting. Winter plans include removals of dead oaks, and also some stump removals.

Lighting upgrades to the football parks are in the process. The new playground for Morten Park is presently flooded, the completion scheduled when it dries out. Edwards Street park will be realizing a new sidewalk, fencing, and benches.

Eisenhower fence restoration is done. A few missing parts will need to be cast.

The original Elizabeth Burkes landscape design plan for Miantinomi Park will be the road map for park restoration. Already, trails have been rediscovered, with the idea of including them is the final product. America the Beautiful grant is planned for planting cherry trees around the cafeteria area at the high school.

A spring fundraiser for replacement of the poisoned trees in King Park was also discussed.

Vernon tennis courts engineering includes grinding up the courts, to reprocess for renovation. JAM was late in re-seeding turf at Miantinomi, and will re-seed, and fertilize in the spring.

2 club size soccer goals have been approved. The Miantinomi sign will be removed. New plaques would look into the history, and purpose of the park.

The grant for new Miantinomi restrooms is due April 2019.

Cliff walk was closed due to drainage issues.

Rochambeau stone monument restoration is complete. The caldron will be restored, along with the statue.

There are plans for a pop up exhibit of a replica of the Viet Nam wall.