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Minutes 03/14/2012

Arlington Tree Committee

Minutes of Wednesday, March 14, 2012 Meeting

Selectmen's Chambers, Arlington Town Hall, Arlington, MA

Present: Sally Naish, Eliza Burden, Lisa Decker, Patti Muldoon, Walter Phillips, Ed Trembly.

ITEM 1 February 2012 Minutes were reviewed and APPROVED

ITEM 2 Reappointment of members/new members. Sally reported that we all have three-year terms (so we end our terms in year 2013). If we want to stagger our terms we should renew our terms next year in one-, two- or three-year segments. Or alternatively, we could bring on new members that are appointed for three-year terms, thus staggering the terms of our committee. We discussed how to bring on new members. Eliza explained the process for the cultural council, which involves interested parties attending a meeting or two and then submitting a letter of interest and/or a resume. The committee then votes on a new member, and then notifies the Selectmen that a new member has been elected and the new member will then be formally appointed by the Selectmen. Lisa Decker explained that the Open Space committee also has interested parties submit a resume but that in some cases when they have only needed one member, they have had to interview people and select the best candidate. This discussion will be continued.

ITEM 3 Town Website Coordination. Sally spoke to Joan Roman and asked for the Tree Committee website link to be added to the Town website. Sally also asked if we could post a notice to the Town email alerts (requesting locations for new street trees), and Joan said we could. Sally to follow up.

ITEM 4 GIS Coordination/Tree Inventory. Eliza will serve as liaison to Adam Kurowski, the Town GIS coordinator, who is trying to assist the DPW with their various activities. He prepared maps that allow us (and the DPW) to see where in town requests for new trees have come in (Eliza presented this map). Two other maps show tree pruning and removal requests. Eliza will try to connect with Adam before each TC meeting to keep up communication with him.

ITEM 5 Tree Planting for 2012. SN reported that the Town plans to plant 50 trees this year. TC will plant an additional 30 trees using "Trees Please" funds. The TC gave the Tree Division a list of recommended tree species for this year. JD will check with nursery to confirm cost and suitability of these recommendations. As of March 12, approx. 54 requests for new trees have come in to Town. This followed 3 weeks of running a notice in the Advocate. Sally will get contact information for these requests so we can reach out to them to find out who might be willing to plant trees themselves (Eliza will send out email; Patti can help track down emails if we do not have them for some of the requests). Last year, Jim Dodge explained that tree planting season extends from April to May 10 (when trees begin to leaf out). This year, due to warm temperatures, we expect tree planting to occur earlier. We will submit the 2012 tree order by March 17; we will aim to plant weekend of April 14 or April 28 (to get feedback from nursery as to prime planting date). Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts are eager to participate in the planting effort again. Once we have addresses, site evaluation and marking will begin (Eliza and Patti have volunteered to do these). Lisa D suggested we recruit the Boy Scouts to take on some watering efforts if people are unable to water. Eliza will reconnect with past volunteers to see if they want to help out again, to remind them about watering, and to sign up for automated notifications on our website.

2012 Tree order: we will plant 30 trees - SN will confirm the order with Jimmy Dodge

Planting Demo. We need to coordinate with Jimmy about a date for a planting demo. Sally will contact ACMI about getting on their banner, and about having them film a tree planting demo.

ITEM 6 NSTAR Update. Nothing new to report.

ITEM 7 Publicity/Promotion.

- Three notices were published in Arl Advocate requesting locations for street trees
- ALB Workshop will occur on May 19
- Tree Planting Class (CV and SN) offered on May 10
- Sally to look into TC announcement on ACMI banner
- Future articles for Advocate should include our website and remind people to sign up on our website for automatic notifications from us.
- Website - confirm that we have links to other sites for disease information
- Table at the Library - TC has the table reserved for April. Ideas for display: tree-related books (Walter will explore what the library has in its collection), photo display of 2011 Spring Tree planting (Sally has trifold), Adam's map showing Tree Requests for 2012, poster of Benefits of Trees (Lisa D) to do this; ALB and other flyers we have. Discussion about possibly giving a few books to the library from our Trees Please fund if we find the Robbins Lib. collection lacking.

ITEM 8 Trees Report. Very early spring for trees; trees will be leafing out earlier than usual. Speculations that the Winter Moth could be very bad this year. Need to contact new tree owners from last year to remind them about the importance of watering this season.

ITEM 9 Other Business

- Planning Dept Regs re: trees on newly developed sites. CV had meeting with Joey Glushko last month and learned that the town should have a ByLaw pertaining to trees that the ZBA and Redevelopment Board could use as a tool. Lisa D to look into this since she frequently comes into contact with these types of regs
- Sally will plan on giving another update to Town Meeting. She will report on TC accomplishments: Spring and Fall planting, Ecofest, Town Day, Climate Summer, outreach, website, etc.

8:52 Meeting adjourned.

Next meeting: Weds. April 11, 7 pm at Town Hall, Selectmen's Hearing Room. Mary Ellen Aronow will be taking minutes.