



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
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Minutes 08/08/2012

MEETING MINUTES

Tree Committee

Meeting Date: August 8, 2012

Prepared by: Lisa Decker

Present: Sally Naish, Eliza Burden, Lisa Decker, Greg Watt, Patti Muldoon
General

- Quorum - We discussed the problems that we have been having getting a quorum. If we reduce the number of committee members who can vote, then we will be able to achieve a quorum with fewer people which will improve the situation.
- Resignations - Both Walter and Andrew would like to resign. Dan Dunn will be interviewing two replacement tree committee candidates.
- Potential Ad hoc Committee members- Jim Dodge has agreed to become an ad hoc committee member. Corinna has also elected to assume this status, given her current limited availability.

Budget

- Sally spoke to Mike Rademacher and Stephen Gilligan about the possibility of the Committee utilizing some of the Trees Please fund for our administrative use. Stephen suggested that we submit a formal request to the Selectmen for expenses. Mike thought a few hundred dollars could be made available from the DPW budget.

Town Day Planning

- Handouts and Fliers - Sally has fliers (e.g. ash borer, long-horned beetle) and the 'Trees are Good' display. Sally will obtain winter moth information from the UMass extension website.
- Tree Requests - Jim Dodge wants us to continue to get requests at town day for trees. Eliza has the original electronic file-which she will email to Patti.
- Microburst mapping - Adam Kurowski has prepared a draft map that shows the locations of tree loss. Lisa will plot it and set it up for display. We anticipate a lot of discussion about the microburst on town day. Jim Dodge said that about 160 trees were lost that day. The committee will add photos of the damage to the map. Greg will bring photos, Lisa will bring the map and Sally will bring the foam core board.
- General Information to provide to the public -
 - Trees planted spring 2012 = 85
 - Trees planting fall 2011 = 50
 - Trees lost in microburst = 160

- Pencils - Eliza will research.
- Vinyl Banner - Sally has the electronic file from the paper banner. We can use the same file to produce a vinyl banner. Sally will have a 1' x 5' banner made.
- T-shirts - We should all look for possible logos for the T-shirt. Lisa will order the shirts.
- Trees Please Donations - Thanks to Clarissa's letter in the Advocate, \$3300 was donated to the Trees Please fund. The Committee should follow through by adding a letter to the editor saying that we're collecting donations at town day not only for the microburst, but also for the trees lost during the October 2011 snowstorm.
- Donations are not tax deductible; we shouldn't collect cash, just checks (according to the town treasurer). We should give the donor a receipt or form letter thanking them for donations. Whatever we collect should be brought to the Selectmen's office on town day and we should keep a running tally.

Notes from Sally's Meeting with Jim Dodge

- Jim said that the town is applying for funds (\$400K) from the state to cover the time/expenses for the microburst clean-up.
- Total number of trees taken down so far is 130.
- The Town still has 30 more to clean up and needs to remove chips and debris in the cemetery.
- Focus for tree planting will most likely be East Arlington next spring.
- No fall planting is planned. If fall planting does occur, Tibbetts would most likely do the work.
- What can the trees please money be used for? Can it be used for a contractor? As a Committee, we feel like the money should be used quickly, we should maximize the planting for the spring.
- Tibbetts guaranteed trees for 1 growing season - The Committee should inventory how the trees are doing.
- Jim wants to focus on planting some liberty elms, at least 25.
- Jim will meet with the Committee before town day so we are fully informed to discuss what DPW is planning.
- Jim said the vegetation manager of NSTAR wants to come into town and trim and prune in specified locations to alleviate the potential of damage from another storm.
- Jim would support an effort to draft a bylaw to cover off-berm planting, but indicated it would be difficult to do for existing properties.

Other Concerns

- Spring Planting Video - no progress on editing has been made. Sally will request the video in time for town day.