



**Town of Arlington, Massachusetts**  
**730 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, MA 02476**  
**Phone: 781-316-3000**

**webmaster@town.arlington.ma.us**

## **Minutes 03/09/2011**

### **Arlington Tree Committee**

#### **Minutes of Wednesday, March 9, 2011 Meeting**

Second Floor Conf. Room, Arlington Town Hall, Arlington, MA

Present: Sally Naish, Eliza Burden, Jimmy Dodge, Andrew Fischer, Patti Muldoon, Walter Phillips, Joan Roman, Clarissa Rowe, Ed Trembly, Corinna Vanderspek.

ITEM 1 February 2011 Minutes were reviewed and approved

ITEM 2 Town Policies Relating to Committees and Websites. Joan Roman, Arlington's Public Information Officer, was introduced. She maintains the town website. She explained that the Tree Committee is to post the meeting announcement and agenda 48 business hours before the meeting, AND following the meeting we are to send the approved meeting minutes to Fran Reidy for posting on the Town website. Joan explained that we can add the Tree Committee website link to the Town website. But, she warned that this can be problematic if the information on the website becomes out of date because no one from our committee is updating it. Sally will send Joan the link to our website so she can review it. Joan warned that she would be away from March 11-25. Joan also said she would send the Town link to us so we can include it in our website.

ITEM 3 Tree Planting Process for 2011. Jim Dodge announced that there will be no funds available this year for planting town trees so it was proposed that the TC only plant the 31 trees requested using "Trees Please" funds. Sally proposed that we ask the people who have requested trees if they are willing to plant the tree themselves; Clarissa voiced concern about people hitting utilities underground but she and Jim agreed that residents should be asked. Jim Dodge said he could provide equipment and staff for two Saturdays during April (April 16 and 23 if trees can be dug at the nursery by then; there may be delays due to snow in VT). If the TC could work alongside the Tree Division staff, Jim estimates that we could plant 10 trees on each of those two days. Jim stated that tree planting season extends from mid-April to about May 10 (when trees begin to leaf out). Andrew said that there is a Work Force at Arlington High (16-18 high school students) that is willing to help with planting. Jim has hand tools available for any work crews. Andrew reminded us that the value of a tree planted by the town is \$300-500 and people should know this when they are asked to be stewards of a given tree.

Jim said the 2011 tree order should be submitted by March 17; he will plan on placing the order and will make a request to have Trees Please funds used. Jim reminds us that the Town does not plant on private roads. Jim also agreed that site evaluation prior to planting would be helpful. The Committee agreed on the following:

2011 Tree order: 10 Elms, 5 Cornelian Cherry Dogwoods, 5 Sugar Maples, 5 Red Maples, 1 Little Leaf Linden, 1 Zelkova and 4 Red Oaks.

Planting Locations. Sally brought up Andrew's idea of having precinct captains to help organize the planting of trees in their precincts. Clarissa said there are about 2,000 people in each precinct and 12 Town Meeting members per precinct. While this precinct captain notion does not apply for this year, it is an idea that could work in future years. Andrew will get emails for Town Meeting members and request helpers for each precinct.

Planting Demo. Jim and Sally had talked about possibly using the annual Arbor Day tree-planting for the Arlington Garden Club as a demonstration opportunity for residents planting their own Town trees. However, Jim pointed out

that they don't usually plant a bare-root tree. An alternative might be replacing a missing tree near the Town garden. He is open to having the Tree Committee collaborate with the Arlington Garden Club for this demo. He may be able to get a bare-root tree for the purpose, once specifics on the tree are known.

Tree Pruning Update. Jim reminded the Tree Committee that although NStar has proposed that they begin pruning trees in town, they are not to do so. So, if we see pruning trucks clearing wires for any utility company, we are to call the police or Town Manager's office.

Tree Committee Publicity/Promotion. Clarissa is very disappointed that more trees are not being planted. TC members agreed that this could be used as an opportunity for publicity and to encourage people to plant trees and to donate to the Trees Please fund. Sally N will be on the League of Women Voters' cable program on April 1. Potential topics for discussion might include this year's zero tree-planting budget, website promotion, plant-your-own-tree program, Trees Please fund, NStar pruning, etc

ITEM 4 Prevailing Wage Bill. A motion was made to have Andrew submit a prevailing wage bill. APPROVED.

ITEM 5 Website. Sally explained that the website is nearly ready to go public but she would like TC members to give it a read and provide comments to her in writing so that the website committee can address some of the problems. Eliza thanked Sally and the rest of the website committee for all of their hard work in getting the website this far.

ITEM 5 ECOFEST (March 26). Patti and Andrew plan to share the job of manning the Tree Committee table. Items to be displayed at the event include:

- Charlie Brown tree representing the sad state of the Tree Department
- Benefits of Trees poster (Mary Ellen will forward a high-resolution PDF to Clarissa so she can have an enlargement made.)
- Demonstration of a tree watering bag (available from Jim Dodge)
- Tree Planting instructions; encourage people to plant trees on their own property; they have a better chance of survival than in the planting strip
- Suggestions box (Sally has this from Town Day)
- Clipboard for recruiting Tree Planting volunteers
- Raffle off copies of Dr Seuss' The Lorax
- T-shirts with Tree logo from Arlington Land Trust (Clarissa will get to Patti)
- Data on how the # of staff in Natural Resources Division has declined from 40 people to 3 people over past 40 years - Clarissa will get this info for Patti

Next meeting: Weds. April 13, 6 pm at Town Hall, Selectmen's Hearing Room. Mary Ellen Aronow will be taking minutes.