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Minutes 04/13/2011

ArlingtonTree Committee Meeting Minutes - April, 13th 2011

Present: Mary Ellen Aronow (minutes), Eliza Burden, Lisa Decker, Andrew Fischer, Patti Muldoon, Ed Trembly, Walter Phillips, Greg Watt.

Absent: Jim Dodge, Sally Naish, Clarissa Rowe, Corinna Vanderspek,

First order of business: March meeting minutes approved.

Announcements: Tree planting date, April 30th a Saturday.

Tree Planting:

DPW will have 31 trees this year. Sally reached out to those that wanted a tree to ask if they would be willing to plant, ? of those requested, said they'd plant. So, the TC now has 15 trees to plant. We could plant those all in one day.

10 Radcliffe Road will be a demonstration site, 8 am start.

Tree committee will get an email out to those that agreed to plant, to come to the planting demonstration. Those trees that will be planted by a homeowner will be asked to pick them up at the DPW yard (cemetery) the Friday before (April 29th).

Greg: could it be self-service? A tree has a name on it, and they pick it up on their own.

Eliza: I think we need to think that the Town has done this before, so let's let the DPW handle the distribution.

Post-meeting note: Jim has indicated DPW would deliver on Friday any trees not picked up by homeowners.

After demonstration, Jimmy will have 2 DPW members available to go from site to site to dig holes. We could make a schedule and Jim said it will take 10-15 minutes at each site to make a hole.

Eliza asked "would someone come up with a schedule?"

Also, would a coordinator be assigned to those trees that the volunteers will plant?

Jim had mentioned that it could be challenging on a Saturday, homeowners will be home, and there will be lots of questions, neighbors.....

Need still exists to evaluate the 15 tree sites ahead of April 30th. Eliza and Lisa agreed to do this next weekend.

Lisa suggested the need for a broader plan for the Town to be developed at some time. Eliza added that next year, TC should make the species choices for most homeowners. Andrew: No single tree was supposed to be more than 5% of the stock. Is that still the rule of thumb to avoid disease?.

Dig safe: homeowners, we should put a note on the bottom of the note to homeowners that they should call Dig Safe?

Volunteers:

Andrew: High School has agreed to plant 4 trees. These will be in East Arlington, as the sites are easier to dig by hand. Andrew will lead these volunteers - working NOT on Saturday, April 30th.

Patti would like to use the volunteers from Ecofest to plant a few trees. Committee agreed to designate 2 trees for these volunteers and Patti will lead this group.

Cub scouts: 7 trees going to Cub Scout Troop 306. Mary Ellen will put out a letter and schedule for the scouts to sign up for and we'll see how many are available.

Ed said if there are any trees left, he could contact Minuteman. Also could contact Scout Troop 316.

Any extra trees ordered that are not committed.....Eliza recalled that Jim said that he looks at Business areas to get rid of the extra trees. Yet.... Who will water it??

This year, we'll have 8 extra trees.

Mary Ellen, Greg and Lisa would each like an extra tree for the tree strip next to their personal property. Therefore, 5 extra trees left. Lisa and Eliza will identify other possible sites while doing site evaluations.

Next year ideas:

- How about a Doodle for keeping track of where we think trees are needed.
- Put a note from TC on someone's door and say "have you ever thought about putting a tree in your yard?"
- Look at where we have downed trees.

Website:

Now at Arlingtontrees.org.

Fresh Pond tree planting looks like it is ours, on the News/Events part of the site. Needs to be credited to the Fresh Pond people.

Patti has a photo of the winners at Ecofest, she will forward to post on the website.

With planting coming up, the website should have all the necessary forms, information for the tree planting people (planting and watering instructions).

Bare root tree planting instructions, should be on the website. Walter: There is already. It's on the website. Find a YouTube video and put it onto the website.

We should have a video of the 8am tree demo. Lisa suggested she would contact her neighbor who videos Ottoson music concerts. She'll ask and see if she is available for the April 30th.

Greg: Everyone, look at the tree website, give feedback. Any videos that could be added?

Eliza: Have your friends, neighbors look at it.

Sally will set up \$12 per year to pay for Wordpress and that will get us more features.

Letter:

Sally had suggested we should submit a letter to the Advocate to talk about the website. Should we write something about Tree Committee and the tree planting on the 30th? Greg asked that if he writes something, then sends it around, that people comment. Eliza will send Greg the Neighborhood Newsletter to view. "Arbor Day letter" Submit a photo of tree planting... Cub scouts planting a tree? Or the Tree Committee? We need to get a letter to the Advocate by the Monday before Arbor Day. Letter should also mention Trees Please.

Suggestions to include:Tree Committee wants to remind you to plant a tree on Arbor Day or contribute to planting a tree, and, visit the website.

Ecofest:

Patti: low attendance, but well set up by the vendors. Some great stuff was set up. We had a lot of interest on the day. Yes, we should participate again next year. We did a raffle of The Lorax book; we took the names and phone numbers. What should we do with them? Agreed we should probably throw them out.

Other Business:

-On April 1st Sally spoke on cable TV for the League of Women Voters about the Tree Committee, came up with a PowerPoint presentation. A link to the screening could be added to website.

-Andrew is drumming up ideas of Town precinct captains; the idea is that if we get a captain for each precinct, we get other eyes for areas in town that can see where trees are needed. Precinct Chairman, someone to lead up the captains. Maybe Andrew could lead up the Town Meeting precinct captains.
At Town Meeting, every year, we are asked if there is tree committee update,

200-year-old London Plane Tree, Mill Street corner. Leaking going on inside the building, Clarissa forwarded an email to Eliza from the owners of the office building asking if ArborTree Care was coming to look at the tree. Eliza thinks the TC should make a statement about this tree.

Patti: there is an Arlington walking committee, every year they do a fundraiser in the spring. They do a walking loop in Arlington. Every year, they have split the funds collected with whatever group will help them with their walk. Sort of like Richard Duffy: walking tours of Arlington.

What if the Tree Committee helped with the walk, maybe tour the great trees of Arlington. We would advertise our group, show off trees, and obtain ? the funds.

Lisa suggested a person on her staff (lives in Beacon Hill) that she'd ask. It would also be fun to include history about Arlington Trees (maybe Richard Duffy would offer some info. To help out). Patti said she could organize the walk, put together a map, and then turn it over to an expert. Patti would like some non-Trees Please money to do something with - like a banner or a pamphlet or something. Patti suggests we start on these steps and see where it goes.....

Lisa suggested "the walking tours of Arlington" book to see if there is any tree-specific stuff in there.

Arlington special trees: We should make a list. Grand Elm of Brantwood , Big Maple Bartlett, Broadway big Beech, Any other places? What about an email out to the Arlington List (Greg suggested he would do it).