



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

webmaster@town.arlington.ma.us

Minutes 11/09/2011

ARLINGTON TREE COMMITTEE MINUTES November 9th 2011

Present: Sally Naish, Mary Ellen Aronow (minutes), Eliza Burden, Lisa Decker, Walter Phillips, Corinna Vanderspek, Greg Watt, Clarissa Rowe, Ed Trembly

Absent: Jim Dodge, Patti Muldoon, Andrew Fischer.

Minutes of October Meeting. Minutes of October meeting approved.

NSTAR update:

- NStar is still banned from working on trees in Arlington.
- J.Dodge reports NSTAR is scheduled to meet with Brian Sullivan Thursday.
- : Committee agreed to post *NSTAR in Arlington* facts on ATC website.
- : Committee suggested members relook at Amendment 87
- : It was mentioned NSTAR has a list of recommended street trees on its website.

Clarissa reported:

- Town is weeks behind on the necessary branch clean up following October's big storm
- Town planting: Tibbetts is lined up to plant 50 trees for the Town, some in locations we provided. Last season's override passage provided funds for the Town to purchase trees for Fall planting. Unknown at this date if there are funds available for Spring planting. If so, the Committee suggested Town should pay for the trees, and committee and community volunteers would plant them.
- Suggested the Tree Committee address the Selectman at an upcoming meeting with a summary of what the Tree Committee has achieved in the past year. (10 minute presentation).
- : Committee suggested they use Adam Kurowski's maps as a discussion / visual aid.

Tree Request Form on Town website

- Review suggested to see if more or less info might be included.

Mass Avenue Project:

- Waterfield Design Group is working on the tree landscaping for the project. 75% drawings are on the Town Website. These are preliminary and without detail on species.
- : Lisa will ask Design Group where/what small ornamental trees are planned - in response to inquiries by the Committee

ATC Website:

- Web site needs more traffic. Suggestions included: Post a Tree of the Week and our website in the Advocate each week; Or a photo of a tree in the Advocate and ask "Do you know where this tree is located in town?"

Fundraising:

- Should we be actively fundraising?
- : Committee suggested an Arlington orchard for profit and sale of firewood from trees cut down by the Town

, as initiatives.

: Committee discussed and questioned the need to fundraise when the Town is purchasing trees from override money now. Is it the Town's obligation to pay for trees and plant them? Do we only step in during fiscally weak years?

Smaller Trees desirable for town planting:

If trees are to be planted under wires, smaller trees should be purchased.

: Committee suggested members look in Lexington for an example of tree damage and wire's down when you plant species too large under wires.

: Committee wondered if Lexington had a policy in place for planting trees in private yards. Members were to check on this.

: Committee mentioned Town Council (Juliana Rice) informed us that planting in private yards in Arlington is done on a case - by - case basis.

Tree Inventory:

Could we obtain a grant for conducting a town tree inventory? Eliza and Greg will look at the Dept of Conservation and Recreation grant application. NSTAR grant??

If we undertook an inventory, town then needs a system in place to then track tree removals and subsequent plantings.

: Lisa and Eliza will meet with Adam Kurowski to advise us on what it would take, what data he would need.

Next Meeting. Thursday, December 15th at 7pm in the First Floor Anex, behind Town Hall.