



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

webmaster@town.arlington.ma.us

Minutes 08/11/2010

Arlington Tree Committee Minutes for the Meeting on August 11, 2010

Tree Committee Members Present: Mary Ellen Aronow, (8.11 Clerk), Eliza Burden, Lisa Decker, Andrew Fischer, Patti Muldoon, Sally Naish, Walter Phillips, Ed Trembly, Greg Watt,
Attendees from the Public: Nicole Laskowski (Arlington Advocate)

1. **Reading of the last minutes**, approved, accepted into record

2. **NSTAR discussion:**

- a. Tree Committee posted NStar concern on A-List to enlist public participation, awareness and generate feedback. A small A-List discussion resulted, mostly sharing concerns, stories, and asking questions; what specific rules are NStar expected to follow; does the police know NStar has been banned from trimming in Arlington? These questions still need answers and clarification.
- b. NSTAR is expected at Selectmen meeting in September. Tree Committee is uncertain of the goals for that meeting; what Committee's role is at the meeting; and the exact date of that meeting. Tree Committee Members agreed to attend that meeting.
- c. Tree Committee can help gather support and interest prior to September's Selectmen meeting. Post photos of NStar thinned "ugly" trees. Write an OpEd piece in the Advocate
- d. Trees for Watertown. Member, Maurina O-Sullivan was in contact with Clorissa regarding Watertown's experience with NStar. Does Arlington want to work with Trees for Watertown to strengthen the position against NSTAR? Committee agreed to discuss again when Jim Dodge is in attendance.

NStar Follow up questions/action item:

- a. What are/can the police do if NStar is seen trimming in Arlington?
- b. Clerk will send Maurina O-Sullivan (Trees for Watertown) a copy of these and all future minutes when NStar is discussed. info@mountaubumphotography.com
- c. Sally will follow up with Juliana Rice to find out exact date of Selectmen Meeting in September and Selectmen's action plan with meeting with NStar.

3. **Town Day booth**

Theme: The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly

(Trees species to plant, tree species to avoid planting, and pruning by NStar)

- a. Trees to plant. Provide information for residents on appropriate (native) trees to plant. Decided a photo board of the mature tree would be helpful. Natives = 'the good'
- b. Pests and Invasives. Check with Jim Dodge for flyers, check websites for take-away material to inform residents. (Invasives = 'the bad')
- c. Community involvement. Clipboard available for residents to jot down anything they feel is important or questions. Committee use clip board for items/questions/comments generated from the day. Should committee put out a survey to the public to find answers to questions we seek? Agreed more thinking and specific questions need to be generated. Internet survey may be the most efficient. Use the A-list and/or the Tree Committee website a possibility for distribution.
- d. Provide information on what NStar is doing. Photos of trimmed trees = 'the ugly'. Information about tree committees' role in the NStar issue, and the goal (and hopeful outcome) from Selectmen meeting should be passed on to residents.

Town Day Follow up questions/action item:

- a. Trees to plant – Sally will gather information from prior work she and Clorissa did via various websites
- b. Sally will check with Jim Dodge for informational flyers about pests
- c. Mary Ellen and Eliza will put together a tree i.d. game for the booth
- d. Lisa is checking to see if she can provide an aerial map of Arlington to view the 'green spaces' and tree cover. Lisa also agreed to put together a board of photos of "good" trees and "ugly" trees. Member's agreed to send Lisa any photos she can use for these.
- e. Eliza agreed to provide a 6' table.
- f. Greg and Eliza agreed to coordinate on a tent for the booth
- g. Greg agreed to provide tree branches to decorate the booth
- h. Mary Ellen agreed to begin an e-mail to the Committee to solicit any further ideas about the booth (decorations, photos, flyers, supplies). Do we have a budget?
- j. Patty agreed to check into making a Arlington Tree Committee flyer for the booth with Sally's help.
- k. Eliza and Sally will look into book marks for residents to 'take away'.
- l. Greg and Mary Ellen agreed to provide chairs
- m. Sally agreed to generate a list of 'talking points' and distribute by e-mail to Committee Members for additions.
- m. Everyone agreed to bring what they have for Town Day to-date to the meeting on September 8th.
- n. A sign up sheet of materials and sign up sheet of who is doing what for Town Day will be generated at September 8th meeting.

4. Tree Canopy evaluation and tree canopy software:

- a. USDA Arbor Tree Mgmt software (\$1500), may or may not be what we need. Does UMass have anything they recommend from their Natural Resource school?
- b. Committee questioned the goal of a survey and the usability of the 1989 survey (which was done to come up with a value of Arlington trees). Committee discussed the current need to know what, where, and health of existing Arlington trees.

Tree Inventory Follow up questions/action item:

- a. Agreed to talk about a tree survey and tree inventory software at a future meeting – after Town Day.
- b. Also need to talk to Jim Dodge about what he knows about prior Arlington tree survey (methodology, usability--

5. Tree Website

- a. Eliza researched Lexington's website, learned they have a tree mgmt manual, a tree farm, information about pests and names in town to call.
- b. Arlington's website has useful information, just out of date. Daniel Fosgate designed the old site – will ask Clorissa to approach him to see if it can be updated or if easier to have another website created.
- c. Agreed we should have a subcommittee research the website. Sally, Greg and Walter agreed to serve on the website subcommittee. Other Committee members should send ideas and information to subcommittee as generated.
- d. Idea to have Tree Committee website link directly from Town website

6. Tree Committee general discussion

- a. What are the Committee's goals? We need to figure out what the community wants from a Tree Committee, what the Town needs from a tree committee, what Selectmen had in mind for a Tree Committee. Ask Jim Dodge?

Tree Committee Follow up questions/action item:

- a. Allot 10 minutes at next committee meeting to discuss Tree Committee goals.
- b. Ask Clorissa to survey Selectmen on their thoughts for Tree Committee goals/objectives.
- c. Committee members encouraged to download the DEM report and read.

7. Tree Gators

- a. Committee had a lot of questions to ask specifically to Jim Dodge. Agreed to shelve this topic until after Town Day

Next meeting September 8th, 2010 6pm. Eliza Burden is clerk