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Minutes 09/08/2010

Arlington Tree Committee
Minutes of Weds. September 8, 2010 Meeting
Hearing Room, Arlington Town Hall, Arlington, MA

Present: Sally Naish, Mary Ellen Aronow, Eliza Burden, Lisa Decker, Andrew Fischer, Patti Muldoon, Walter Phillips, Clarissa Rowe, Corinna Vanderspek, Greg Watt.

Sally Naish called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

ITEM 1 August Minutes were approved as written.

ITEM 2 Introductions – Expertise of members.

Corinna Vanderspek – Her strength is in native plants. She will receive her certificate from the New England Wildflower Society. She is good at organizing. She is a member of the Arlington Garden Club and a member of the Friends of Robbins Farm.

Eliza Burden – She is a garden enthusiast with a strong interest in native plants but does not consider herself an expert in trees. Her background is in Historic Preservation. She is a member of the Arlington Cultural Council and a Friend of Menotomy Rocks Park.

Mary Ellen Aronow – Worked together with Eliza Burden on an erosion control project at Bishop School this past spring. She has a Masters in Forestry and has worked in the west and south. Currently, she is working for a Timber Investment Management Co. in Boston doing forestry research. She is good with databases, Excel, crafts, and art projects.

Greg Watt – He is an avid gardener; his wife is a landscape architect. He is an appreciator of nature and is often in the parks with his kids. He worked on the beautification effort on Broadway Plaza. Involved with Friends of Spy Pond.

Walter Phillips – He is one of the original Tree Committee members. He was trained as a physicist and engineer. He's good with computers and is a Town Meeting member.

Lisa Decker – works with Clarissa as a landscape architect. She has 25 years of design experience and knows her street trees. She has experience with graphics, photos, views, etc. Member of Arlington's Open Space Committee.

Clarissa Rowe – She is a landscape architect and an Arlington Selectman. Longtime Town Meeting member before becoming a Selectman. She put together a street tree symposium in Boston aimed at improving the longevity of street trees beyond their avg 7-year life span. Interested in soils. Wanted to establish a town tree by-law for Arlington. Wants to find appropriate and hardy trees for streets in Arlington.

Jim Dodge – although Jim was not present at meeting, Clarissa explained that he is very relieved to have a tree committee to work with. He's eager to have software for the tree canopy as a way of quantifying what we have in Arlington.

Andrew Fischer – Has general interest in trees. Helps to prune trees in the Spy Pond Field area, especially along the bike path.

Sally Naish – Has background in Project Mgmt in the pharmaceutical industry. Her newer career is in landscape design. She also has graphic skills.

ITEM 3 Announcements. Sally reviewed the meeting requirements, requesting that minutes be done promptly so that she can come up with an agenda that must be posted 72 hours in advance of meeting.

ITEM 4 Website. Clarissa explained that Dan Foskett, who runs a business called Cohort Design, designed the original website and is willing to keep doing it. Sally reported that he is also willing to put the website into a newer

format that we can manipulate ourselves. Greg, Walter, Sally and any other interested people will be forming a website sub-committee. Corrina recommended speaking to the man who did the Frds of Robbins Farm website. Eliza knows the Cultural Council has a Wordpress website. Clarissa commented that people love the "Tree Stories" section of the website and that future tree stories could include the 100-yr old Katsura on Walnut St and the new Liberty Elm planted on Academy Street. On website, there could also be links to pertinent articles such as "A Shade Cooler" in the Boston Globe on July 20, 2010.

ITEM 5 Follow-up Items. Clarissa reported that NSTAR had a somewhat unsuccessful meeting with Town Mgr, Brian Sullivan, and Jim Dodge in August. NSTAR unwilling to have their people trained in pruning. Cambridge and Brookline have allowed NSTAR back into their communities but with stringent restrictions. Apparently, NSTAR has replaced their arborist since this Spring. Clarissa said that Tree Committee could help by being present at the Selectmen's Mtg when NSTAR will be there (date not yet decided). She also suggested that the Tree Committee help encourage residents to plant street trees on their own property since they would have a much longer lifespan with more available soil and less salt. Clarissa also suggested that at Town Day we collect signatures showing that people in the community want NSTAR to improve their pruning practices.

ITEM 6 Town Day Booth. Discussed supply lists and schedule for Town Day.

ITEM 7 Committees Mission and Goals. Based on an idea from Patti Muldoon, all committee members present were asked to write their top three ideas for the mission of the tree committee on separate pieces of paper. These ideas were then read aloud according to their priority. These have been compiled in an attachment. We will start formulating a mission statement/goals at the next meeting. Themes included: education of residents, stewardship, increasing number of trees.

ITEM 8 Other business. Members decided that meeting should be held from 7:30-9 rather than at 6:00. Members were also open to other room possibilities for acoustic reasons.

ITEM 9 Next meeting: Weds. October 13, 7:30-9 at Town Hall. Lisa Decker will be taking minutes.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm
Respectfully submitted by Eliza Burden