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Minutes 03/12/2014

ARLINGTON TREE COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 12, 7:30 PM, Town Hall

Present: Sally Naish, Ed Trembly, Mike Rademacher, Susan Stamps, Eliza Burden

1. February Meeting Minutes. Approval delayed until April.
2. Web page reorganization -Discussion delayed until April.
3. Update from DPW. Mike Rademacher explained that the DPW is planning on using a contractor to plant trees this spring. They plan to send the job out to bid by March 20, and ask to have bids submitted by April 4 for planting to be undertaken by May 15. MR will ask them to plant the trees, circulate watering instructions if possible, install gators (at an additional \$20 per tree), and guarantee the trees for a year. MR asked ATC to review list of trees and select 3 species of each: small, med., and large trees. Sally will get back to him by this Monday March 17.

MR says we have roughly 150 tree requests that have come through web QA. He estimates that the \$40K will be used to plant 140-160 trees this spring by a contractor.

MR says the Tree Warden position has not yet been posted; it might become part of a full-time position where the individual would still have to meet the requirements of a Tree Warden, such as being a certified arborist. Still working on this. MR did say they also might consider hiring someone on a temporary basis who also holds a part-time tree warden position with another community (Belmont, Lexington?).

4. Publicity. We did not discuss newspaper articles but we did discuss the possibility of starting a "Friends of Arlington Trees" page on Facebook as an effort to do more Community Outreach. It could be used to report on tree activity in town, send watering reminders, share photographs and tree-related articles. Susan Stamps voiced concern about it being maintained. Eliza volunteered to look into it and get it started. The administration of the page can be shared among committee members.

5. Update on tree 'inventory' - Eliza reported that she and Liz met with Adam Kurowski last month. Adam then entered the planting data (from Spring and Fall 2013 that was forwarded from the DPW) into the "inventory." This info is in place as a pilot study. It is ready to be tweaked but the decision was made to wait until we have a Tree Warden in place to continue spending time on this. Adam K recommended that the DPW continue to track planting data in an Excel format.

6. Brian Murray's Tree - any updates. Sally will put a hold on a tree for planting this spring.

7. Other Business

o MacEachern Estate. Eliza mentioned that one idea for some of the funds (if they come through) could be a tree

giveaway. Residents could be offered the opportunity to order a tree through the town and plant it on their private property, thus increasing the tree canopy in Arlington but not adding to the work of the DPW.

o The Adopt-a-tree Robbins summer reading program was not discussed.

o Susan Stamps talked about Community Preservation Act (2014 Town Meeting warrant article 22-Adoption of Community Preservation Act). She hoped Tree Committee should support the warrant article at town meeting for adoption of CPA since there are many CPA projects Arlington could do which would involve tree plantings. She explained that tree committees in other towns have supported CPA, some with specific projects in mind such as restoration of historic streetscapes.

o Sally reported on the presentation by Medford Tree Warden Aggie Tuden (to the Medford Garden Club) that she attended last week at the Medford Library. Summary of things she learned:

- Aggie works 25 hours/week with a crew of 2. She organizes plantings, inspects sites, and selects trees. She works with a contractor who plants the trees. Trees are generally balled and burlapped and planted in the Fall at a cost of approx \$400/tree installed.
- She has been successful at writing grants. Eliza asked where the grants came from and for what. Sally to look into.
- She works with National Grid to do pruning. She takes photos of trees near utility lines and then tells the National Grid contractor (usu. Asplundh) what to prune.
- They have a "Back of Sidewalk" plan so that trees are not planted under wires.
- They fill all their requests for trees every year
- If people want trees and they don't have a planting hole, the Tree Dept will cut them a hole in the sidewalk.
- Medford has also been successful in getting a day of service from a certified arborist through the Mass Arborists Assoc day of service.

NSTAR - no update

Next meeting: Wednesday, April 9th, 2014 at 7:30 pm in Selectmen's Hearing Room