

Arlington Tree Committee

Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, January 14, 7:30 PM, Selectmen's Hearing Room, Town Hall

Present: Mary Ellen Aronow, Liz Pilcher, Sally Naish, Eliza Burden, Emily Snyder, Susan Stamps, Mike Rademacher, Ed Trembly. Visitor: Becky Edmondson.

1. Welcome

2. DPW Tree Department Update (Mike Rademacher)

- **Tree Warden:** Mike reported a low response to request for resumes in December. The Town has reposted the position with a deadline end of January.
- **NSTAR (Becoming Eversource, one of three utilities now managed by NorthEast Utilities):** Northeast Utilities performed a pilot pruning. Northeast Utilities was generally thought to have shown restraint in their pruning approach. DPW personnel and Northeast Utilities visited the pruning sites and reviewed the results. A few people attended the public follow-up and pruning review meeting. Northeast Utilities made several offers: to replace some trees if they have to be removed, to participate in Arbor Day activities, and to participate at the ATC booth at Town Day. The Town is meeting with Northeast Utilities Friday January 16 to plan additional pruning activities. Northeast Utilities is under mandate to address each circuit (there are four circuits or routes in Arlington) once every four years.
- **Spring or Fall Tree planting:** This year's plantings will number 150 trees. Planting may occur in spring or fall. The town will order the plants, go to bid, and use a contractor to plant the trees. The 2014 fall planting replaced ten trees that didn't survive the previous planting, responded to requests on web QA, and replaced storm damaged trees. Ways the ATC can help include: check trees planted last fall so that Sacca can do replacements, where necessary; deliver watering instructions to those addresses; and do a press release this spring/summer about filling the Gator Bags.

3. Publicity

- **Advocate article(s):** We reviewed the upcoming publication calendar: articles/authors by month include: Winter Tree Pruning/EPilcher, Feb.; About the ATC and new members/MAronow, Mar.; Arbor Day Planting/SNaish, Apr.

The following subjects will be discussed next month.

- **Website**
- **Facebook**
- **Tshirts/Business Cards**

4. Approval of November Meeting Minutes

Approved.

5. Membership

- **New member Emily Snyder appointed in late November.**
- **Additional new member outreach.** The committee will post a piece in the *Advocate* asking for new members, including a picture and names of members.

6. Other Business

- **22 Mill Street tree issue with Conservation Commission.** The building owner contacted the Conservation Commission about cutting down a sycamore (London Plane tree) on Mill Street. The tree, which is believed to be on private property, is causing foundation damage. The tree is one of the oldest in Arlington and is shown in photographs from the 1800s. Clarissa Rowe thought we could try to get it established as a heritage tree. Becky Edmondson will talk to the Historical Commission about the heritage tree designation and will report on it at the next meeting.
- **Ecofest theme is “energy”, March 7, 10am - 2pm.** SNaish recommends that the ATC have a presence at Ecofest. We could present on the island effect and shade improvements to the area around Thompson School. This subject could also provide the foundation for a DCR grant. EBurden suggests that we could coordinate with Arlington EATS. Eliza and Elizabeth have signed up for the March 7 Ecofest event. We should have a ‘join the ATC’ sign at Ecofest. EPilcher and ESnyder will go photograph Thompson area to show lack of trees and appropriate locations for trees.
- **Master Plan:** SStamps and EBurden made extensive comments and specific recommendations to the master plan draft to add stronger language. The master plan committee included some recommendations, but omitted specific recommendations. The MP committee is looking for comments on the draft before the plan becomes final. EPilcher will take a first stab at review and condensing the recommendations so we can submit the recommendations again.
- **Grant committee** will reconvene to meet the April deadline.

Next meeting: Committee meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month. February 11, 7:30 pm