

## ARLINGTON TREE COMMITTEE

### Monthly Meeting of Arlington Tree Committee

**Wednesday, May 13, 7:30 PM, Selectmen's Hearing Room, Town Hall**

Present: Sally Naish, Eliza Burden (Co-chair), Mary Ellen Aronow (Chair), Liz Pilcher (minutes), Susan Stamps, Ed Trembly, Becky Edmondson, Mike Rademacher. Visitors: Larry Englisher, Eric Ammondson, John Ellis, Susan Hagner

1. **Approve April meeting minutes.** To be completed next meeting
2. **DPW Tree Department Update (Mike)**
  - **Spring Tree Planting – timing, locations, watering instructions delivered.** The DPW planted 100 trees this spring--50% were planted because of tree requests and 50% were for empty tree pits and other sites per the DPW plan. Watering bags were installed and the town has been filling the bags.
  - **Resident concerns re tree removals: 4 trees down on Hillsdale Rd.** The DPW had tree hearings for these trees, which were removed because of MWRA work. They will be replaced by the MWRA.  
**Trees were removed on Spring Valley and Lakeview (correspondence with Laura Bergan).** A developer requested these trees be removed. It is unclear if the trees were on town property or private property. Mike is looking into this.
  - **Eversource pruning.** Mike will check into Eversource's pruning progress.
  - **Tree Warden.** The town is still advertising this position and may hire Davey Tree Service to act as tree warden temporarily.
  - **Container tree planting opportunities.** The town has not spent the entire tree allotment. We could do more planting perhaps at Town Hall. Members discussed how to advertise and the new trees and perhaps get various 'friends of' organizations involved in planting.
  - **Planting program for the fall and spring.** We can do a press release asking people to make tree requests. Mike asked that the requester mention presence/height of power wires and size of tree strip. If no tree strip or an inadequate tree strip exists, we can do off-berm planting. Possibly we could do a town-wide email blast.
  - **Discussions of how to get residents more involved in their street trees.** East Arlington Livable Streets organization. This organization along with 'friends of' are sources of people interested in the town trees. Liz will make a email group of 'friends of' chairs.
3. **DCR Grant Submission – update.** To be discussed at the next meeting.
4. **Heritage Trees in Arlington – committee update.** Becky asked the Boy Scouts if they would like to have a part in identifying heritage trees. They expressed interest. Mary Ellen will become involved in this too.

**5. Tree Removal on Private Property.** Susan continued discussions on initiating a by-law to regulate the removal of mature trees in private property development. Susan feels the timing is right to reconsider such a regulation, as the subject is addressed in the master plan and development is coming to Arlington. Susan and Mary Ellen met with Carol Kowalski Town Planner who was enthusiastic about establishing a grass roots initiative (the ATC's efforts to date may in part constitute such an initiative). In Lexington the by-law regulation says that if the developer plans to 100% demolish structures or if the developer plans to increase the existing building footprint by 50% or more, then the developer has to have a plan showing location/protection/conflict with design/replacement of trees. When work is done, the tree work is signed off by the building inspector. The Conservation Commission and Redevelopment Board are concerned with these types of issues. The Tree Committee should be at the table with the Redevelopment Board and Conservation Commission concerning this issue. Susan wants to go before the redevelopment board to start a conversation.

**6. Publicity/Outreach**

- **Advocate article(s) update committee on schedule.** Sally Naish committed to authoring an article on maples—invasiveness of Norway maples in town, what characterizes invasiveness, how to identify a Norway maple from other more desirable maple species.
- **Facebook.** To be discussed at the next meeting.
- **Tshirts for sale at Town Day.** Eliza will order more for new members.
- **Participation in Earth Day at Menotomy Rocks Park.** To be discussed at the next meeting.
- **Town Meeting Tree Committee update.** Ed and Susan ably represented the Tree Committee at town meeting.

**7. Membership, Committee Roles, Responsibilities and Tenure.** To be discussed at the next meeting.

- **Co-Chairs**
- **Website**
- **Publicity**
- **Meeting Minutes**

**8. New Business**

- **Becky doing piece for summer Neighborhood Newsletter**—a new outlet for tree info for the ATC.
- **Susan Hagner complaint.** Susan is a Bowdoin Street resident. With the approval of the town she hired a tree service to prune an ash in front of her house. She met with Eversource and they agreed there was no need for them to touch the tree. She came home from work and the tree had been pruned harshly.

**Next meeting:** Committee meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month. June 10