

## ARLINGTON TREE COMMITTEE

### Monthly Meeting of Arlington Tree Committee

#### Wednesday, June 10, 7:30 PM, Selectmen's Hearing Room, Town Hall

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

1. **Approve May meeting minutes**

May meeting minutes approved.

2. **DPW Tree Department Update (Mike)**

- **Spring Tree Planting – watering:** Next year Mike is considering hiring a company to water the trees. This summer the DPW will survey trees planted in spring. He will ask the contractor to replace any trees that are dead. He is pursuing the gas company about dead trees at Town Hall.
- **NSTAR pruning:** Mike looked at trees reported to have been improperly pruned. The trees are not as bad as reported. Mike says that he has received two complaints in 10 months that NStar has been back in town.
- **Tree Warden:** not a lot of movement. No applicants. Eliza will post the job notice on FaceBook.
- **TreeCity USA Awards 2015:** Mike attended. Next year he will invite ATC members. Among handouts he took, he saw door hangers, a good method of delivering watering instructions. John Ellis mocked up a door hanger design. The DPW will print door hangers with watering instructions, and the tree committee will distribute them to homes that received trees planted this spring. It was suggested that we tag the trees similar to Cambridge, which is using a laminated sheet on each new tree—a 'please water me' sign. Mike saw handouts relating to laws protecting trees from pruning by private parties. He will bring the information to the next meeting. Mike will send the last fall and spring planting list for inclusion in Adam's database.

3. **Tree Bequest update.** John MacEachern estate settled in 2014. \$144,000 is now in an account for new trees and maintenance. The money is considered supplemental to what the town already spends. A bench and tree with plaque were installed in honor of John MacEachern at a cost of \$2,000. A subcommittee was formed to discuss the tree bequest: Liz, John, Eliza, Sally, Mike.

4. **Tree Removal on Private property (Susan S) – update:** SStamps and LEnglisher reported on regulations concerning removal of trees on private property. Basically in permitting, the contractor would submit a plan to the building department showing trees to be removed and plans to replace them. MEA and SS met with the redevelopment board, which would establish a regulation for tree removal. The planning director Carol Kowalski called SS and

said the board is interested in what the tree committee is doing. Carol says that we will need public support for this and she is willing to lend her support. It would be a general by-law. SS and MEA will meet next Wednesday with town council. SS wants to get something ready for town meeting next spring. There are several avenues we could take to limit tree removal. These could be through: the neighborhood conservation district; historic districts; heritage trees; scenic roads; and the general law. EP mentioned the significance of Mass Ave as the route used in the Revolution. The town could demonstrate more awareness of the historic significance of the road. EB and MEA will look into the definition of neighborhood conservation district.

**5. Tree Inventory Pilot approach (Liz)** Liz, Emily and Eliza met with Adam and are doing a pilot for Adam. We are carrying out the pilot through the month of June.

**6. Heritage trees in Arlington update (Becky/Liz)**

Liz gave Becky's report on heritage tree designation. She will send the report to ATC members. Becky has added a heritage tree tab on our website and has added images. Liz is keeping a spreadsheet with tree data/locations/contacts.

**7. Publicity/Outreach**

- **Social Media**

- **Facebook:** Eliza has started an ATC Facebook page!

- **Advocate article(s) update committee on schedule**

- 2015 Publication Calendar handout and review.

- July Press release. Make a tree request. EPilcher

- July: Maples. Characteristics of the Norway maple compared to other maples—SNaisch

- August: Watering. MEAronow

- September: Update on heritage trees. BEdmondson and EPilcher)

- Reissue watering press release

- Mary Ellen will get the word out about watering new trees through the town email list

- **T-shirts:** Emily will order for new members. Contact Emily with sizes.

**8. New member vote**

**9. Membership, Committee Roles, Responsibilities and Tenure**

- **Co-Chairs**

- **Website**

- **Publicity**

- **Meeting Minutes**

**10. New Business**

**Next meeting:** Committee meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month. July 8.