

## ARLINGTON TREE COMMITTEE

### Monthly Meeting, Weds Oct 14, 7:30 PM, Selectmen's Hearing Rm, Town Hall

Present: Eliza Burden (Co-chair), Mary Ellen Aronow (Co-Chair), Susan Stamps, Rebecca Edmondson, Ed Trembly (partial), Eric Ammondson. Visitors: John Ellis, David Rines.

1. **Approval of Meeting Minutes.** Sept. meeting minutes approved; July mins to be circulated for approval. Susan noted future minutes should be kept brief.
2. **DPW Tree Department Update (Mike via email)**
  - **Tree Warden:** Position is still unfilled. Steven Rae continues to serve as Interim Tree Warden.
  - **Dead Trees from 2014 Fall Planting:** Mike is negotiating with contractor to reach a settlement.
  - **Fall Tree Planting:** Trees have not arrived. Planting (red maple, elm, crabapple) should begin before months' end.
3. **Tree Preservation Bylaw.** Susan and Mary Ellen reported on their meeting with Town Counsel (Doug Reim). Doug met with Mike Byrne (ISD). There are new issues to be considered. Doug will try to have a draft bylaw available within 30 days time. A fall TM has not been scheduled.
4. **Tree Inventory.** Mary Ellen has a proposal from Davey Tree for a town public tree inventory in the amount of \$71,000. Eliza will discuss a possible volunteer effort with someone who approached her at Town Day. It was noted that DCR provides matching grants that can be utilized for tree inventories.
5. **Arlington's Big Trees / Heritage Trees.** Not discussed.
6. **Publicity/Outreach.** Not discussed.
7. **New Members.** There are no prospective new members at this time. There was discussion that the size of the committee should be increased due to the large amount of current initiatives underway.
8. **Roles and Responsibilities.** Mary Ellen distributed a draft list of roles and responsibilities (7/15). It was noted that the co-chairs should rotate amongst the members. Ideally each role on the list should be filled. Becky volunteered to take over as Recording Secretary. Also, Becky will create email list using googlegroups for potential volunteers.
9. **Correspondence Received:** Not discussed.
10. **New Business.**

**Tree Hearings.** John attended two recent hearings for removal of public trees by a developer and was able to negotiate doubling the amount of replacement trees required. It was discussed that ATC members should be aware of all tree hearings and attend when possible. *Action: Mary Ellen to ask Mike for prior notification and to inquire about the standard rate charged for tree removal by the town.*

**Arlington Center Traffic Median Tree Plantings.** John presented visual documentation of the median strips at the intersection of Mass Ave., Pleasant Street and Mystic Street and suggested requesting these strips be planted with trees. Recent median strip planting on Trapelo Road in Belmont was suggested as an example. *Action: Mary Ellen to discuss with Mike.*

**Next meeting:** Next scheduled meeting is November 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm, Selectmen's Hearing Room, ATH. Due to the holiday, this meeting will be rescheduled.