

ARLINGTON TREE COMMITTEE

Monthly meeting, Weds Dec. 9, 7:30 PM, Auditorium, Town Hall

Present: John Ellis, Eliza Burden, Emily Snyder, Mary Ellen Aronow, Susan Stamps, Eric Ammondson, Sally Naish

Visitors: Mike Rademacher

1. Approval of meeting minutes

Nov. meeting minutes approved with correction.

2. DPW Tree Department Update

Tree Warden: Two potential candidates; one withdrew due to it being a part-time position; other less interested for same reason; hoping to work with HR on issue.

Fall Planting: Of 50 locations to be planted, 5 refusals. Two tree bags reported missing.

Requests for Spring Planting: Being received; notice yet to be posted in Advocate. Misinformation in Menotomy Rocks Newsletter.

Tree Hearings: A. 11 Kipling – Street tree directly in path of newly-constructed driveway. BoS advised of objection; hearing scheduled for Jan. 11 BoS Meeting.

B. 20 Webcowet – At hearing, 3 trees at issue. It was agreed that one mature tree to remain in place, one small dying tree to be removed, one small healthy tree to be transplanted. In fact, contractor removed both mature and dying trees, and badly transplanted healthy tree. Developer claimed “miscommunication” with contractor. Offered to pay \$1,150.00 plus donation to Trees Please Fund. Fee and penalty process to be reviewed for future cases.

Discussion ensued regarding lack of clarity about current rules and regulations, fees and penalties imposed by surrounding towns, and resource issues within DPW and Building Dept. wrt. implementation and follow-up. Outcomes: JE & MEA will finalize letter, which to include a) reminder for developers that there is no right to remove healthy trees, so should plan ahead; b) offer of ATC’s help. MEA will submit to Adam Chapdelaine/Building Dept. JE to research fees and penalties of surrounding towns. Committee to summarize State regulations to clarify information on Tree Dept. website. SS to contact State reps. re. State penalty for illegal removal of public tree(s).

Tree Request Web Q/A form edits: It was agreed Joan Roman would be asked to add to tree request form: Are there overhead wires? Will you water tree?

3. **Tree Removal By-law – update:** First draft received from Doug Heim; currently working on strategy; deadline will be early April for Town Meeting.
4. **Publicity/Outreach** – No discussion
5. **Membership, Committee Roles, Responsibilities and Tenure** – No discussion
6. **New Business** – JE officially appointed to ATC by BoS. Otherwise, no discussion

Next meeting: Next scheduled meeting is Wednesday, January 13 at 7:30 pm, Selectmen's Hearing Room, ATH.