

ARLINGTON TREE COMMITTEE

Monthly Meeting, February 10, 7:30 PM, Auditorium, Town Hall

1. Approve Jan meeting minutes

- Approved

2. DPW Tree Department Update (Mike)

- **Tree warden;** Mike had little to report. Eliza forwarded Mike some additional ideas as to where to post the job; Mike is reevaluating how to fill post; could a full time position be more attractive?

Spring planting; Mike is putting together a spring order for about 125 trees. Mike needs help with planting suggestions; he suggested the ACT can solicit tree requests via Google group, Facebook and even by Town Notice. There was a discussion of placing flyers at houses with viable street tree sites. John offered to design the flyer. Flyer to say first come, first serve. Mike hopes to get a part time watering contract this year, soliciting bids. Cambridge lets interns open fire hydrants to water trees (!). It was noted that the MacEachern account has an additional \$5000 in it; uncertain where these funds came from. Mike would like to have a plan to spend the MacEachern money. Discussed possibility of spending some of the tree fund for good new trees for town center.

Committee members requested that the DPW NOT order Amelanchier, crabapples, or Callery pear.

- **Tree Hearing - 11 Kipling objection and follow up with BOS on Feb 10**
Mike talked to town manager re: developers needing to consider public street trees in their plans. Town manager was on our side, understood completely.
- **Draft of Guidelines/fees for tree hearings**
Mike working on it, not done.

Mike agreed to add a link to the excellent new DCR pdf on protecting public shade trees to the DPW site. Eliza to send pdf to him.

3. Ecofest – March 19 – “Are you Ready for Climate Change?”

- **Lead needed, and response/registration due**
Runs 10 am to 2pm. Goals: get more names for google groups, hand out recs for planting trees from our site, hand out flyer on dealing with trees when you have solar panels. Becky to draft the flyer and work with Sally to finish. Will also put this flyer on the website. Flyer topics: consider your neighbors before cutting; put it on website; check cambridge for statement).

4. Tree Inventory – Open Tree Map vs Davey Tree (John E)

- **Mtg with Adam Kurowski**
- **Pilot Tree Inventory in Plow Route 12**
John Ellis's report: Adam K (town GIS specialist), Mike, Eliza and Sally met re the inventory. Mike is in favor. Discussed tools for that: paying someone, using open source tools (esp. open tree map). Leaning toward using opentreemap. (Note: itree is meant for individuals.) Opentree is meant for wider public, allows

shared mapping. John and Eliza collaborating on a plan on how to begin pilot inventory on plow route 12 (a DPW route).

5. **Bylaw (Susan S) – update**

Trying to get it done in couple weeks. Doug has done a draft. Will go with setback. Grappling with caliper of protected trees. Pondering how much to make people pay to Trees Please fund for cutting down tree and pay ito trees please fund. Pay per caliper inch? It's \$50 per inch in Lexington. May want to specify that will pay the tree hearing fee. What about fines? Want to be realistic. Sounds like need a flat fine that's high enough to prevent the behavior.

6. **Publicity/Outreach**

- **Correspondence with the Building Inspector re: Shade Tree Law**
Mary Ellen has talked with him about this. He is open to it. We will need to make info available to him.
- **Tree Removal article to Advocate**
Got submitted, Becky to check if published.
- **FB/Website/Email**
Website and FB staying updated. Need to ask people to friend us. We are at 80 now. Maybe ask people to like our page. Look into adding something about linking to our FB site on website.
- **Googlegroups**
John ok with being point person.
- **ATC Annual Report**
Eliza is writing, to be sent to John.

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

- Not discussed

8. **New Business**

- **Heritage Trees update.** For Ecofest, ask people if they have a big tree whose photo they want to post on our site. Becky can't head this up anymore, will write summary of ideas for the project and put in Dropbox.
- **Arbor Day – poster contest for 5th graders (Becky/Mary Ellen)**
We got some letters from people asking for Arbor day trees.

9. **Correspondence received:**

- **Heike Arlt 10 Cheviot Rd Arlington, MA 02474 (requesting tree species advice. ATC advised).** MEA wrote her
- **Skip Murphy 10 Heard Road, failing tree concerns for safety (ATC alerted Mike R.)** Mike knows about it, looking at the tree, he emailed Skip.

Next meeting: Committee meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month. March 9.