

ARLINGTON TREE COMMITTEE, Meeting Minutes

Monthly Meeting - June 14, 2017, 7:30PM, Selectmen's Hearing Rm, Town Hall

Attending: Eric, Eliza, John, Susan, Ed, Mara, Tim Lecuivre. Visitors: one of the interns, Rob; Steve W.

1. Approve May meeting minutes. Approved

2. DPW Tree Department Update (Tim)

- Spring street tree planting (and at parks). All planting complete for spring Tree Preservation Bylaw - impacts on DPW, interactions with Building Dept. Regarding the building permit database on website—Susan offered to check it every month and funnel pertinent information to Tim.

- Tree hearing(s) -- (GIS, Inventory reporting).

40 Webcowet rd, builder wants to remove st tree out front and 3 others on property. Public ash tree out front, excellent health. Need to cut tree in order to put in a duplex driveway. Hearing is July 10, 10am, Jay Bradley is the contact. John Ellis says he will object.

Another tree hearing Monday June 19, 2017, for 2 red maples in island in front of senior center on Maple st. Not technically trees in right of way, but bc of magnolia park backlash, town manager requested hearing. Removal is for access for seniors into building, widening driveway. Will replant serviceberry to mimic the canopy lost in removal of tree. Planning board is working with architect.

Tree hearing for 40 Beacon objections: one resident brought a petition with 36 signatures, letter from Mara Vatz. Tim gave BoS the letter and petition. Carney suggested moving the tree (30 ft tall healthy Norway Maple). Tim spoke with contractor: idea would be to move tree onto private property. Unlikely to be successful. Action: call BoS office to find out when this will come up so we can be present. Susan suggests tree committee takes official position on it and go to meeting and represent.

Related: Tim fined this builder (Carney) 2K for dead tree at 25 Beacon based on picture in OpenTreeMap.

- Tree City USA. John and Tim did a great job representing the work we've done with bylaw and inventory. Other tree wardens seemed impressed by what we're doing, really put Arlington on the map. Tom Brady (Brookline warden) is the guru of tree wardens, he wanted the information from door tags, etc. Very cool! One of the speakers is a professor at BU, her work is how trees in urban environments reduce carbon. They reported that the data we've been using actually underestimates the impact of urban and suburban trees. They grow faster than forest trees bc more access to sun and water. She's applied for 3M grant to do research on heat islands and CO2 expressions, she'll have 5 PhD students and can send one to Arlington. Lucy Hutyra is name of contact; John Ellis will be in touch with Lucy.

- Tree tour with Garden Club. Tim led members of Garden Club on a tour of trees at Robbins Town Hall Garden

3. Tree Inventory Update (ATC Subcommittee)

Intern hiring. Two interns, Rob and Ellery, were hired and began inventory during first week of June. Within a number of days they've done 3 or 4 plow routes. Typically they meet in the morning in Tim's office to discuss, plan out the routes, they split up to go faster. Engineering has been involved in helping to identify which are public roads, width of roads, etc. Most roads are 40-50ft wide, but the actual road is 20-30ft wide, so any trees in the setback are actually public. They have all this info on their tablets. Since Rob started they've done 2332 trees and 1700 planting sites have been mapped.

Volunteer updates: Rob will assume volunteer management starting Tuesday 6-20. This will include emailing volunteer reminders, setting meet-up locations, communicating with ATC team captains, etc. He will also take over leading the Tuesday inventory sessions. We filled several time slots with ATC volunteers so all are officially captained now. Discussed having only 2 working smartphones before setting out so we don't get bogged down in the app training. Volunteers are not encouraged to go out on their own to do inventory work—we are keeping them in the area of East Arlington that is north of Mass ave.

John is presenting about opentreemap to conservation commission tomorrow night.

End of Inventory Summer Event. Discussed planning an end of Inventory event/thank you/present results to the town, invite garden club and all volunteers. Get PR for this event.

Ellery ends in early August, but Rob could stay on to make 20 weeks total of intern time. Goal is to have it all done before the end of August.

4. **Dogwood planting follow up.** Susan did a review by bicycle. 4 out of 25 were not visible. Main concern: only a few had water bags. Maybe next time we can use some \$ to distribute water bags. Also do a follow-up email to people to remind them about watering and to pass along info about ordering a water bag. Do we want to do the same species for the fall? We'll wait until September and see how we are feeling. John could get the conversation started with a nursery. Red bud?

5. Publicity

Advocate article (Inventory and interns, Tree City USA, tree planting, Bylaw)

- Bram Berkowitz wants to participate in a tree inventory possibly for an article.
- Re: Tree City USA event, we'll get some publicity from tree-specific journals like Citizen Forester, Bark, etc. Action: send picture of ATC at Tree City USA to Advocate, Joan Roman.
- Should we have Joan Roman put info about the bylaw in the Arlington email/Advocate?

6. New Business

- Summer ATC meeting schedule. Will continue as usual
- Sustainable Arlington. Eliza attended and presented Tree Committee project
- New members – Steve Moore visited
- Tshirts and business cards. Delayed until next mtg but interns want t-shirts. Let's deliver to them.
- Correspondence. Nothing discussed

Next meeting: Committee meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month, July 12.