

ARLINGTON TREE COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes – Weds., April 11, 7:30PM, Lyons Hearing Rm, Town Hall

Attending: Eliza Burden, Brian Turnbaugh, Tim Lecuivre, Steve Moore, Mara Vatz, John Ellis, Susan Stamps, Ed Trembly

Visitors: Philip Tedesco, JoAnne Preston

1. Approve March meeting minutes. APPROVED

2. DPW Tree Department Update (Tim)

- Review of Winter tree damage. Arlington got slammed with 4 nor'easters which were catastrophic not only in Arlington but in neighboring towns all the way out to 495. Arlington had at least 24 trees that tipped over. An additional 24 trees with catastrophic scaffolding tree damage also need to be removed. Marquis Tree has been helping with storm damage and backlog. Town doing its best to answer everyone's calls. Priority trees are those that tipped over, trees affecting power lines, hanging branches that are detached. Tim assured committee that he is committed to keeping the Tree Map current; he has been updating it with current Town work and contractor work and plans to update it every week.
- **Tree hearing(s).** Due to an objection at the initial tree hearing for trees across from 40 and 46 Foster St (Gibbs School project), the issue was revisited at the Selectboard meeting last Monday. Results: Contractors will do their best to work around it, and Tim will be on site to work with contractor. If they can't possibly save the tree, the BoS gave them permission to remove the tree. A question was raised about whether the BoS is giving notice to objectors when the tree will be discussed at the Selectboard meeting. **Action: John is working with Marie Krepelka to ensure that objectors are notified so they can attend.**
- Ecofest. Was great, lots of people attended. Steve and Tim were at table. **Action: Mary Ellen will provide list of emails to John for adding to googlegroups.**
- Spring tree planting timing? Gas testing? In our queue we have 140 requests for plants. Town will plant 10-11 trees on Webcowet to reforest the street due to the tree canopy loss. Town is also planting 16 in East Arlington where DOT trees died; DOT gave us the funds to do that rather than planting them themselves. New curbing and additional soil for Webcowet are also being discussed.
- John brought up need to update map if trees are planted in "empty planting sites"
- Gas testing. Device has been rented. Tim will be trained on it (when soil warms up) and be the one to test the sites. Arlington and Waltham are first on the list to borrow the devices; there are only 2. After testing, Tim will follow up with utility company to pay for removal and replacement of dead trees.
- All the trees along Mass Ave from Jason to Academy in front of Town Hall and the one at Uncle Sam Park will be gone in the next two weeks, National Grid paying us to remove and repay. **Action: Need to publicize this before we remove all those trees.**
- John: how long does the soil keep the methane in it? With regards to replanting. **Action: Tim will ask that question during his training and be ready to request that soil be removed if gas remains in soil.**

- Arbor Day. The Arbor Day tree planting will happen with students at Stratton School. Tim has coordinated with Principal Michael Hanna.
3. **Tree Preservation Bylaw amendments.** BOS approved motion for town meeting approving idea of BOS setting fees and that their first fee would be \$375 per inch of DBH. Next year we will have to further adapt the language for removing protected trees.
 4. **Community Tree Canopy Program with MacEachern funds (John)** – As of Tuesday, there were 12 trees ordered. Eliza handed out registration forms for people to distribute. **Action: John will try to coordinate a delivery on April 27 by New England Nursery.**
 5. **Inventory/Management Plan update (John/Mara, Eliza/Mary Ellen)** - Reviewed process. Reviewed draft Tree Management Goals; Susan suggested addition of 1. C) – Continue to plant more trees in public parks, schools and other public places. John moved to accept the mgmt goals with the amendment proposed by Susan. Steve seconded. Committee APPROVED Tree Mangement goals as amended. Document content to fulfill grant requirements-Mara and John to finish document within a week or so. **Action: Steve M will read document for typos after Mara enters Mike's comments. Then the plan will be delivered to Mike R and Tim L to review, with goal of getting to DCR by April 30.**
 6. **Emerald Ash Borer.** Susan reported she and the tree warden met with Town Manager on March 27, 2018 and alerted him that the town could lose all 961 ash trees (10% on the town's trees) if nothing is done. EAB has not been seen in Arlington, but has been spotted in nearby communities. They agreed on a plan whereby the town removes ash trees in poor shape (25% of surveyed ash trees) and treat the rest – cost for 12,000 inches of fair and good ash trees - \$1 per inch for materials for DPW to treat vs. \$10/inch for contractor. Treatment is time consuming (1 hr per tree) and right now Tim is the only one licensed to do the treatment. Much cheaper to treat than remove. **Action: Susan to follow up with town manager and DPW supt. to decide when and how treating will take place and timeline for removing the trees. Susan and Steve will set up and invite people to a training by Javier Marin at DCR to train residents to identify EAB.**
 7. **New Business**
 - BU May 3rd 6pm – presentation on heat island using Arlington data. John will circulate the invitation again. Adam Chapdelaine and Jenny Raitt plan to attend.
 - Vision 2020 results. Looking for a volunteer to review the results so we can have some comments to add to the Management Plan.
 - Correspondence. None discussed
 - Spy Pond Erosion Control efforts. Tim has been in conversation with the Conservation Commission.
 - Tree Committee opinion re: invasive species. Eliza stated that it would be helpful for the Tree Committee to consider what its take is on invasive species. In some of the larger, restoration projects in Town such as Spy Pond and Mill Brook, it may be important to not stand in the way of restoration efforts in order to preserve a Norway Maple canopy.
 - Tree Steward program. Not discussed
 - Chestnut seeds. Not discussed

- Bishop School tree planting request. John explained that the topic of tree planting efforts at schools using MacEachern funds first was discussed at a March 2017 meeting. Mike R approved the matched fund request presented by Bishop but will take the funds from Trees Please fund. Mike reminded the Committee that if schools are to seek funds from the MacEachern Fund for tree planting, they should address their requests to the DPW, not to the Tree Committee.

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