

ARLINGTON TREE COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes – Weds., June 13, 2018, 7:30pm, Lyons Room, Town Hall

Attending: Tim Lecuire (Tree Warden), Members: Ed Trembly, John Ellis, Mara Vatz, Brian Turnbaugh, Eliza Burden, Susan Stamps, Steve Moore. **Visitors:** Phil Tedesco, Joanne Preston

1. **Set up rotating minute taking process.** Susan agreed to do them for this meeting. She proposed going in alphabetical order.
2. **Approve May meeting minutes.** Minutes were approved unanimously pending corrections noted.
3. **Community Tree Canopy Program with MacEachern funds (John)**
 - Recap: 52 trees were delivered to Arlington (27 hawthorns and 25 oaks). People were pleased. Unfortunately, 11 of the hawthorns had frost damage and did not leaf out. ATC working with NE Nurseries to find replacements. Susan expressed concern about the program re: much volunteer time required and potential town liability. We will revisit the program in the fall to see if we want to do it again.
4. **EAB Training June 5 (Susan, Steve)**
 - Recap: 50-60 people attended. Javier (DCR Pest Coordinator) did a great job, showed map of where ash trees are located in town. Lots of questions were asked. Slides from the presentation were added to the ATC website. John circulated a link to the slideshow on Googlegroups. Eliza will do the same on FB. Steve and Susan will follow up for further community outreach about EAB and might contact Javier for further EAB ID training.
5. **Publicity / Community Outreach**
 - Arlington Garden Club's garden tour Sept 23 with emphasis on trees.
 - Town Day booth (need registration submitted). Steve will work with Eliza to register for a booth.
 - MOTION-John moved that he investigate on behalf of the committee buying some small trees to give away at the Town Day booth - Ed, John, Mara, Brian and Eliza voted YES, Susan voted NO, Motion passed.
 - Tree watering at Scannell, Thompson, ABG Club Tennis Courts. John reached out to AHS to encourage tree watering for community service hours. He developed a sign up. Phil Tedesco is working with the Thompson School community to develop a summer watering plan for the trees there. Bishop school also is doing a community effort to water. Phil aims to streamline this process so other schools (and perhaps other orgs) have somewhat of a template/model to follow. Also discussed having pics of kids watering trees to use for publicity.
 - Write Advocate articles:
 - A. EAB
 - B. Community Tree Canopy Program
 - C. Watering. Steve will draft a letter to the Editor for submission in the Advocate. Susan will review.

D. Inventory and Management Plan. It was discussed that this would be a good topic to ask Abbi Matheson to write an article for us.

6. Tree Mgmt Plan (John, Mara, Tim)

- Final review status. **ACTION: Mara and Mary Ellen will collaborate on the final edits and submit by end of month.**
- Once, submitted and approved by DCR, we should have a plan to distribute this to other town groups and articles written, and an event.

7. DPW Tree Department Update (Tim)

- Spring tree planting. Done -- 100 trees planted
- Spring street tree watering. Will be done for spring 2018 trees (he has already done 2-3X) but not for earlier trees, we need a plan. More residents are watering trees. He plans to plant 150 trees in the fall, 100 as requested by residents via the Town's question/answer center and 50 in places identified in the tree inventory as needing trees.
- Tree hearing(s): 1 coming up for TH gardens trees; there were objections so it will go on to the Board of Selectmen. Trees in parks do not require hearings under c. 87 but the town has decided to do them.
- Interactions under Bylaw. 59 Hutchinson Rd.-They submitted a tree plan and they will proceed with removing 6 large trees and will plan on replacing.
- Involvement with Whittemore Park, Spy Pond , Uncle Sam, Town Hall gardens
- Gas Leaks. Testing will begin next week. Recent tree removals involved 116" of DBH lost along MA Ave due to gas leaks. Tree Dept along with Town Engineer will be pursuing National Grid for payment to replace these 116" DBH of approximately \$43,500.(\$375 per DBH). Tim will train on the gas detector we are renting from HEET for 30 days and if it seems effective, the town may buy one- he will test the pits on Mass Ave. where the trees were just removed.

8. New Business

- Discussion and amendment of motions drafted by Susan requesting that the Town adopt two new tree policies.

MOTION - John moved approval of a Motion requesting a Town policy that the Tree Warden shall be consulted on all town projects involving trees (motion as amended attached to these minutes) - YES: Ed, John, Mara, Brian, Eliza, Susan, Steve Moore. NO: None - Motion is approved unanimously.

MOTION - John moved approval of a Motion requesting a Town policy requiring a watering plan of at least two years' duration for new trees in all town projects (motion as amended attached to these minutes) - YES: Ed, John, Mara, Brian, Eliza, Susan, Steve Moore. NO: None - Motion is approved unanimously.

- **ACTION: Susan will communicate with other town boards, Mike R, and Town Manager, and ask the Select Board to adopt these policies for the town.**
- Correspondence. Not discussed.
- Solar Panels. Briefly mentioned but not discussed.

Next meeting: Committee meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month, July 11.