

**ARLINGTON TREE COMMITTEE**  
**Weds., August 8, 2018, 7:30pm**

**Meeting Minutes** –, Selectmen’s Hearing Rm, Town Hall, Eliza, Mara, John, Ed, Susan, Mary Ellen, and Tim (Tree Warden). Guests: Ellen Cohen, Beth Melotchilk, Keith Schnebly, Phil Tedesco, BeeJay Baatz, Mango Woods

1. **Assign note taking for meeting minutes** – we will rotate taking notes alphabetically. Mary Ellen Aronow is up first. John Ellis takes minutes in September.
2. **Approve June and July meeting minutes.** June minutes approved. Not enough members present to approve July
3. **Community Tree Canopy Program – (John Update).** 12 hawthorn trees need replacements. John will provide addresses to New England Nurseries this week – will ask resident via email if delivery next week
4. **DPW Tree Department Update (Tim)**
  - **General Update:** 2 new staff members added to DPW tree department; New tree requests coming in – 150 trees will be planted this Fall; Town trees are looking very stressed due to 5 years of low water, heat, salt.
  - **New and current town projects involving trees.**
    - **Old burial ground:** outside company came in and evaluated trees – some will be removed, some will be treated – Arlington received a grant for the project, which is restoring the crypts.
    - **Whittemore Park:** one dead tree will be removed. All others pruned. No decision yet made to remove more.
    - **Town Hall grounds – restoration continues.** Three of the trees to be removed went for a hearing, objection, and BoS granted removal of one tree (pine), others will be left.
    - **Gibbs School:** 2 trees had hearing, BoS granted permission to take down the Norway Maple to get a curb cut in for safe drop off area. Ash tree will remain. Six new trees put in at Gibbs, Tim consulted on species in 2017, was not contacted again. **Action: Mara volunteered to reach out to the school and get commitment to water the trees. PhilT. will help.**
    - **Mystic Valley Road.** 6 trees planted by DCR on DCR property; one tree is dead. **Action: John will contact Jenny at the Planning Dept and see if we can get a contact name at DCR to see about watering.**
  - **Tree watering of young trees in town.** Tree Dept is spending 2 hrs/day overtime after work watering Fall 2017 and Spring 2018 trees around town. Need a replacement bag at Teele Street new tree. **Action: Need 4 new bags at Spy Pond tennis court trees (due to mower/weed whacker damage).**
  - **Tree hearing(s)** - None at this time

- **Tree Bylaw** – Discussion of new language needed so people do not opt to replace trees instead of paying the fee. Now that we have the new 375 per inch (DBH) fee in place, Tim thinks it is important to have people have to pay the penalty in order to deter tree removal because the current option of replanting as stated now is not working since newly planted trees on these properties are not thriving once the developer is offsite. (Language in Bylaw doesn't state that the tree needs to stay alive. 48 George Street – planted 3 pin oaks on property, all died. (Add agenda item to next month's agenda to start working on bylaw new language for next Town Meeting – put together a subcommittee to do it Oct, Nov, Dec).
  - Town Day. Tim might be able to be there.
  - Other news – Thompson playground new trees going in – Warden and Park & Rec, 10 new trees, Phil T helping.
  - Eversource – pruning aggressively on some trees. Tim talked to Eversource and Eversource found some arborists were pruning too heavily – Eversource said that group of arborists will not be asked back and have offered to help Tim with other Town pruning
  - Pruning of high-priority trees? Tim is spending time watering now – and won't be able to focus on high-priority trees until after the Fall.
  - Adam K working on a way to get the WebQA data integrated into the inventory – and combine into one database and maps
5. **Gas Leaks Task Force Report (Susan).** Gas meter that Tim was borrowing for 1 month was a success; Adam Chapdelaine would like to have one purchased for the town. Many gas leaks along Mass Ave by Town Hall. Tim will use new tester when he plants for the Fall
6. **Procedures/policies for town construction projects and tree watering - (Susan and Tim Update).** Tim said that those taking on public projects in town are generally reaching out to him but are not necessarily keeping him informed all the way through a project – ie. Might be consulted at a start of a project, yet is not told when trees are planted or by whom or who is watering. **Action: Susan will talk to Adam C about moving forward the two motions voted on at the June ATC meeting.** The formal presentation of our submitted Management Plan will occur later in the fall.
- DPW Projects Around Town: <https://www.arlingtonma.gov/departments/public-works/projects-around-arlington>
7. **Publicity / Community Outreach**
- **Town Day booth:** Steve reserved a booth for us on September 15<sup>th</sup> (Mara, Eliza, Susan and MEA are available that day). **Action: Ed will supply baby oak trees for give away at Town Day. Others please hold the day. MEA will distribute a signup schedule.**
  - **Working with Earth Core summer program (Eliza).** Eliza represented ATC and worked with campers to understand some of the tree planting issues and concerns in town. Taught kids how to water trees using watering bags.
8. 12 minutes: **New Business**
- Correspondence:
  - Street trees and solar panels – whats the procedure when solar panels are present and stree tree species and site selection – **was not discussed**

- **Partnership with Boston University using our tree inventory data for their studies.** One student received this summer a grant to study the impact of tree removal on carbon sequestration in communities as part of the Green Communities Program: municipalities reduce their energy usage. **Action: John will keep us posted on this study.**
- **Webcowet Road update:** ash tree that was in trouble has leafed out – and nine new trees planted and the neighborhood is watering the new trees. A few new trees will be planted this Fall in that neighborhood. **Action: Keith will forward photos of the trees.**
- **Arlington’s Tree-mendous Fall Garden Tour.** Will be held on Sun Sept 23, 12-4 pm. Gardens that feature trees will be highlighted. Tickets available now through the Arlington Chamber of Commerce.

**Next meeting:** Committee meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month, September 12