

ARLINGTON TREE COMMITTEE (ATC)

Meeting Minutes -- Wednesday, October 10, 2018, 7:40pm, Lyons Room, Town Hall

Attending: Members: Eliza Burden, John Ellis, Ed Trembly, Brian Turnbaugh, Mara Vatz, Steve Moore, Tim Lecuivre (Tree Warden). Visitors: B.J. Baatz.

1. Meeting Minutes Duty

- Steve took the minutes.

2. Approve September Meeting Minutes

- Approved unanimously.

3. Community Tree Canopy Program – (Eliza update)

- Checks for planted trees were deposited into the McEachern Fund on 09/27/18.

4. Community Tree Watering Projects (Thompson School, Scannell Field, ABG Club)

- Eliza to follow-up with Town Facilities Director (Steve Nesterak); Mara will forward original e-mail.

5. Town Day Follow-up (Eliza)

- Eliza, Mara, Mary Ellen, and Ed all staffed the booth -- lots of good foot traffic.
- Gave away 26 trees -- thank you, Ed and Beth (an ATC visitor).
- Added 15 new members to the ATC Google Group.
- Gray Bill for Town Day ATC booth (\$70) will finally be paid by the Department of Public Works (DPW).
- Most frequent question: how do I get a tree in front on my house? Residents generally unaware of the request process and the Town Question/Answer (Q/A) website.

6. Department of Public Works (DPW) Tree Department Update (Tim)

- New and current Town projects involving trees
 - A. Hardy School -- replanting four trees (perhaps not until the Spring).
- Tree watering / DPW overtime
 - A. DPW personnel have been taking the offered overtime.
- Tree hearings
 - A. 24 Cypress Rd. -- two objections; owner withdrew request.
 - B. 15 Kensington Rd. -- owner is requesting a hearing on a public street tree.
- Tree Bylaw
 - A. 15 Kensington Rd. -- owner intends to develop property, and asked for Tim's input on tree planning prior to designing the home (shows progress on developers' attention to the Bylaw).
- Fall planting
 - A. 100 trees to be planted town-wide from Town Q/A website requests.
 - B. Five trees in East Arlington (finishes off the Mass. Ave. DOT project); 10 trees at Thompson School (with Phil Tedesco's help -- an ATC visitor).

C. 35 trees to Tree Zone 1; Tim to place resident door-hanger notices to match specific resident interest with each planting site.

- Adam Kurowski is working on the integration of Town Q/A website data into the Tree Inventory / Maps.
- The Tree Inventory needs to be updated with recent pruning data (257 entries); Steve and Brian to work.

7. Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)

- Mara is writing letter to request FY2020 DPW funding for ash tree treatment funding (potential approaches and attendant costs, as well as the costs associated with doing nothing).
- Tree Inventory listed 36 ash trees in poor condition, many of which may have already been removed by the DPW.
- John mentioned the possibility of using EAB pheromone traps (as Somerville does), however Tim pointed out that the attractant properties of the traps might be counterproductive to the goal of keeping the pest out of Arlington.
- John to post the ash tree map on ATC Google Group to support EAB surveillance.

8. Bylaw Fees and Procedures/Policies for Town Projects and Tree Watering Select Board Actions

- Steve reported that Susan had presented the proposed Arlington Tree Preservation Bylaw fee structure revision, along with the two proposed new tree-related policies to the Select Board at their 09/24/2018 meeting.
- The Select Board approved the \$375 per inch diameter at breast height (DBH) fee/penalty for removal of a tree under the Bylaw.
- The Select Board also approved both proposed tree-related policies
 - A. All Town Projects with any tree impact will require involvement of the Tree Warden at the initial project planning stages.
 - B. All Town Projects that include the planting of new trees (other than public street trees planted by the DPW) will include both a two-year warranty on the tree survival and a two-year regular watering plan that is approved by the Tree Warden.

9. Gas Leaks Task Force Report

- Steve reported that the Select Board had had an extensive discussion related to both emergency repairing of gas leaks and hardship case gas hook-ups in light of the current Town gas hook-up moratorium policy at their 09/24/2018 meeting.

10. Set First Meeting Date for Tree Bylaw Update (for 2019 Town Meeting) Subgroup

- John will take the action; subgroup to include Mary Ellen, Susan, Brian, and ATC visitor Phil Tedesco.

11. Publicity / Community Outreach

- Emerald Ash Borer info to be added to ATC Google Group and Facebook.
- Discussed process and rules for non-DPW pruning of public street trees; Tim gave a quick history how the laws/rules regarding public street trees had evolved, as well as outlined the current typical non-DPW pruning process/procedures.
- 47 Spy Pond Ln. development
 - A. Conservation Commission twice voted the project down.

- B. Developer (Seaver Construction) sued the Town, and then proposed a third version of the plan; the Commission will have a public hearing on the latest version on 10/18/2018.
- C. Steve took the action to contact the Developer to suggest that they contact the Tree Warden regarding the possible development of a tree plan for the site.

12. New Business

- Arlington High School (AHS) rebuild
 - A. Ed briefly outlined the meeting presentation and debate.
 - B. Eliza had forwarded the Tree Inventory link, the data from which was appreciated by the Rebuild design team.
 - C. Preservation of some of the AHS front lawn's existing tree canopy is currently planned.
 - D. Plans are still being developed.
- Correspondence received by ATC since last meeting
 - A. Tree Canopy Program tree recipients wondering why checks had not cleared; the checks have now been deposited.
 - B. Bill Berkawitz provided a useful link related to the psychological benefits of trees:
https://www.yesmagazine.org/issues/mental-health/the-restorative-power-of-trees-20180919?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=YTW_20180921&utm_content=YTW_20180921+CID_79601b1b107c4e605fc91bda747efd4b&utm_source=CM&utm_term=The%20Restorative%20Power%20of%20Trees
- Public street trees and solar panels
 - A. Issue comes up infrequently.
 - B. Existing public street trees and tree-provided shade take precedence over individual resident desires for shade-free solar panel siting.
 - C. New street tree planting can take these resident desires into account, by way of contacting the Tree Warden.

Next meeting: Committee meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month, November 14th.