



Arlington Tree Committee

Date: Wednesday, Feb 13, 2019

Time: 7:30pm

Location: Lyons Hearing Room, Arlington Town Hall

Meeting started at 7:32

Attending: Brian Turnbaugh, Eliza Burden, Mara Vatz, Mary Ellen Aronow, Keith Schnebly, Phil Tedesco, Brian Turnbaugh, Ed Trembly, Susan Stamps, Tim Lecuivre

Visitors: Beth Melofchik, David Stern

Minutes

1. *Approve January Meeting Minutes - approved*
2. *DPW Tree Dept/Tree Warden Update*
 - Tree hearing(s) – none coming up.
 - Tree Bylaw activity
 - A. 15 Kensington St still in the air, no word from builder to the Board. No Tree Plan submitted.
 - B. Nelson Construction that did work at 18 Harvard Street was asked to meet with Tim and Town Manager Adam re: the large number of trees illegally removed; he claimed he never saw the documentation from Building Dept. regarding the Tree Bylaw. Total fees: \$300/stump + \$500/replacement or plant = compliance. Next step, Tree Warden will reevaluate the fines = \$300/day and start date. **ACTION: Tree Committee will follow up with Town Manager by beginning of March to ask about follow up on this.**
 - Spring planting. Tim placed an order for 150 trees this Spring. 100 trees through Request/Answer will be planted, and another 50 in Tree Zone 2 (Tree Zone 1 had some trees in the Fall) **ACTION: Phil will help with finding planting sites in the Thompson area that need more trees).** Varieties selected: 5 natives and 5 non-natives.: 3 varieties of large (50+ft) and 3 varieties of medium (30ft) and 4 small varieties for under wires. 1 large tree will be planted at Uncle Sam park, Warden looking for nurseries with large trees available. Will have contractor plant and commit to a 3 year watering plan. **ACTION: ATC members should email tree selections (something urban tolerant, no dropping, can tolerate salt) to Tim. ACTION: ATC decide if a dedication could accompany tree – ask Mike R/Adam C – Possibilities: Kevin Greeley or Clarissa Rowe?**
 - Tree inventory data updated - Steve and Brian finished the data update and Tim has been able to keep up with pruning/felling
 - Tim was pleased to report that in last windstorm only 1 limb fell. Pruning and mgmt. seems to be working.

- There is current pruning (~150 trees) and removing (~35 trees) along major corridors in town by Marquis Tree Service – (orange No Parking signs).
- EAB mgmt.: Tim getting funds – decision on where to start treatment continues. (3 or 4 months until able to start any application).

3. *Community Tree Canopy Program Spring 2019*

- Nursery Choice – NE Nurseries
- Approach businesses this winter
 - There was discussion of Pilot effort with business. . Eliza met with a representative of Mirak properties to discuss where trees might be planted on their properties. Possibilities include the parking lot across from the RCN building on Mass Ave, the Lahey Building on Broadway, the Armenian Center (across from Winchester Country Club), the land where Fresh Pond Seafood is located and the Dept of Children and Families (DCF) Building on Mystic St. They seemed interested in cooperating if we could come up with possible locations for trees. Watering could be more streamlined for a business that already has maintenance process. **ACTION: Work with Tim to find out owners of Apartment buildings on Warren street, across AHS on Mass Ave – approach for planting**
 - Keith and Brian offered to join the Tree Canopy subcommittee
 - Planting target date: Arbor Day is April 26th
- Discuss number of trees, sizes, and species from Nursery
- Action: Obtain approval from DPW, timeline for fund deposits**
- Publicity timeline

4. *Publicity/Community Outreach*

- Good Neighbor Agreement; Arlington Residential Zoning Study Group (RSG) looking for Tree Committee support. Passed last year at Town Meeting (tell your neighbor you are going to do some major work). This year, they want to expand it to include notifying neighbor about removal of trees subject to the Tree Bylaw (Article 16). Do we support it? Discussed. ATC agreed on the concept but would like to see the language before having an actual vote. **ACTION: Take a vote at March meeting after Susan provides more details**
- Fox Library: “*What’s Up in Arlington?*” presentation. **ACTION: What Wednesday’s are available?** Can we coordinate the presentation with our display at Robbins library? The Tree Committee is interested. Susan offered to do a presentation. We could use this as an opportunity to present our Tree Management Plan. The Annual Report on Dropbox could be used to present the ATC initiatives this past year.
 - Robbins Library – table display in April – do a table that is attractive to young children – educate people about trees. Tree map, tree canopy program, EAB, chestnut blight and Dutch elm disease, Arbor Day: what are you planting this Spring? Check list of trees, tree seeds, gator bags, etc. **ACTION: provide Mara a list of favorite books about trees, and the library and order them to be available. Ask students at New Covenant school to make a tree poster.** (ie. The Giving Tree, Douglas Tallamy book, Native Trees and Shrubs book, etc)
- Earth Quest (Earth Day week) – be on the look out for info

- d. Publicize completion of Tree Management Plan (Social Media; Advocate, etc) – hand in hand with the Fox Library presentation?
- e. Possible Article -- Success of 2017 Community Canopy Program – when the trees leaf out.
- f. ATC Google Groups – new administrative manager sought; Phil T said he would consider this role

5. *Updates on Old Business*

- Bylaw Update – 2018 approved Bylaw changes have yet to be put on the Town website. ATC will change language on the ATC website once on the Town's.
- Emerald Ash Borer – should we reach out to Javier again for a community training once it warms up?
- Gas Leaks – not discussed
- Procedures re: town projects and tree watering – not discussed
- Tree Construction guidelines – not discussed

6. *New Business*

- a. Service project with New Covenant School – **ACTION: Keith said he'd work with them.** Maybe a poster at the Library table display.
- b. A discussion of setback concerns re: proposed multifamily buildings that will be presented at 2019 Town Meeting - New developments on Mass Ave next to AHS and Decator Street and N.Union are examples where buildings are being constructed at the very edge of the sidewalk so there's no setback and therefore not sufficient room for tree planting. Sunny Side, another example. Example, one story commercial building around Brattle Street would be 5 story buildings, There was recognition that the Master Plan identified the need for more multi-family housing. MPAC provides planning for towns, Arlington's Redevelopment Board, head Jenny Raitt, is heading up this proposal. A group in town: Arlington Residents for Responsible Redevelopment which Beth is involved with is opposing these changes because it seems they aren't considering tree planting or other stormwater management. ATC is interested to learn more.
- c. Tim also mentioned a concern with ADA compliance in town re: tree planting. Sidewalks used to be 36" wide to be in compliance and now that's increased to 42" so this is reducing the width of tree strip even more making it much too narrow to plant a tree. Overlook and Ronald Road just had their sidewalks widened to ADA Compliance (under the Safe Schools initiatives by Stratton). This might mean that Mike R might be more amenable to allowing for tree planting behind the sidewalk now that street tree planting is becoming increasingly challenging.

Meeting adjourned 9:30.

Next meeting: Wednesday, March 13.