



Arlington Tree Committee

Date: Wednesday, August 14, 2019

Time: Meeting commenced at 7:40pm

Location: Lyons Meeting Room, Arlington Town Hall

Participants: Members -- Mary Ellen Aronow (Co-Chairperson), Eliza Burden (Co-Chairperson), Steve Moore (Minutes), Keith Schnebly, Susan Stamps, Ed Trembly, Brian Turnbaugh; Tree Warden -- Tim Lecuivre; Visitors -- Ellen Cohen, Beth Melofchik, JoAnne Preston

Meeting Minutes

1. *Community Tree Canopy Program, Spring 2019*
 - Report on visiting prior planting sites -- next month.
2. *Publicity/Community Outreach*
 - Watering reminders re: new trees
 - i. Eliza has sent out reminders on Facebook.
 - ii. Mary Ellen sent reminders to Spring 2019 Canopy Program new tree recipients.
 - iii. Notices posted on Arlington Town website.
 - ACMI (Arlington community cable) will be interviewing the Tree Warden and creating a distributable video; multiple topics/material suggested to Tim for presentation.
 - Tree Committee can take and contribute short tree-related video material (information/process/publicity) to ACMI, and perhaps our Dropbox website.
 - Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) information to community
 - i. New Covenant School brochure to be offered on Town Day.
 - ii. An Advocate article will make the most sense after a treatment strategy decision and plan development by Public Works.
 - iii. Javier (DCR Pest Coordinator) to be brought back for another information session post- treatment strategy decision and plan.
 - iv. Somerville's Urban Forestry website has some excellent materials on EAB; we would like to utilize them; Tim will ask their Tree Warden, and we may link to their site.
 - "A Day in the Life of the Tree Warden" article/video for the Advocate is in process.
 - Facebook and Google groups are currently quiet.
 - "Soonish" podcast contribution is still under development.
3. *Town Day – September 14th*
 - Committee member to sign using SignUp Genius tool.
 - ATC table will be open 9:30am - 3pm.

- Tree Warden will support, and bring the portable gas leak detector for demonstrations.
- There will be a tree giveaway at the ATC table, all donated by Ed.
- There will be some new poster boards on watering and recently-planted tree maps from the Inventory (past three years), showing real and substantial progress; also pending EAB treatment maps and information.

4. DPW Tree Dept/Tree Warden Update

- Tree hearing(s)
 - i. Dickson Ave. / Christine Rd. / Mountain Ave. intersection, scheduled for August 16th; Engineering Dept. intersection re-design project.
 - ii. 28 Argyle Rd, scheduled for August 16th; Seaver Construction residence redevelopment project.
- DPW summer interns are having to fill 90% of the Gator Bags they find (250 per week), this shows us the watering sign-up process for nearby residents is not really working.
- Tree Bylaw activity
 - i. 28 Argyle Rd.; residence redevelopment; tree plan submitted.
 - ii. 1500 Mass. Ave.; residence redevelopment; tree plan submitted.
 - iii. 206 Waverley St.; residence redevelopment; tree plan submitted.
- Natural Gas Leaks
 - i. Susan reported that the Gas Leaks Task Force potentially has a method of comprehensively detecting all of the gas leaks in the Town; this detection method, as it relates only to street trees, would cost an expected ~\$30,000.
 - ii. This data will generate support documentation for claims against NationalGrid.
 - iii. The Town Manager will be approaching the DPW Chief for the possible use of some of the MacEachern Bequest funds, or perhaps the Trees Please Fund if more appropriate.
 - iv. The Tree Warden has recently submitted \$27,000 in claims to NationalGrid for gas-caused street tree death, based on his gathered data using the portable leak detector.
- Planting trees by the DPW in the vicinity of projects covered by the Tree Bylaw will be considered by the Committee once the new Bylaw provisions go into effect.
- Trees planted by DPW are being added to the Inventory in real-time.
- EAB strategy
 - i. Large good and fair condition street/park/school/cemetery ash trees will be treated first; smaller diameter at breast height (DBH) good and fair condition ash trees will be next.
 - ii. Bio-Forest Co. has been chosen for application supplies, utilizing organic (eco-friendly) materials; treatment will kill both pest adults and larvae.
 - iii. Cost for application (including materials) is \$5 per inch DBH (DPW staff) or \$15 per inch DBH if subcontracted out, which is likely.
 - iv. Each treated tree is protected for two years, so this is a long-term, on-going commitment.
 - v. Half of the Town will be treated each year, starting next season, costing ~\$75,000 annually.

5. *New Business*

- Susan will investigate the claim that the recent Tree Bylaw approved changes have not yet been submitted by the Town to the State.
- A letter by the ATC is being drafted to propose to the DPW an increase in budget for additional watering trucks and staff, to make permanent the tree watering process and associated infrastructure.
- In response to a public query, Susan will ask DPW about the possibility of offering wood chips from DPW tree work to residents.
- ATC currently updating Inventory GIS with more accurate location of trees that were entered out-of-place.
- DPW has clear-cut a small stand of trees at Buzzell Field on Summer St., per recommendation of Arlington Police
- Received a public query about scale on the cherry trees at the Water Tower; it was suggested to the resident that she contact the private citizen, Ben Barkam, who planted them.

6. *Approve ATC Meeting Minutes*

- Updated June and July Minutes, with minor edits, were both approved unanimously.

Meeting Adjournment: 9:35pm.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, September 11, 2019.