



Arlington Tree Committee

Date: Wednesday, May 13, 2020

Time: 7:30pm

Zoom meeting – You must Register in advance for this meeting:

[https://zoom.us/meeting/register/JlKf-utqz8rGtSmWPfDkvy2mqTirJhKNbXa](https://zoom.us/join/zoom/register/JlKf-utqz8rGtSmWPfDkvy2mqTirJhKNbXa)

You will receive a confirmation email with information about joining the meeting.

Minutes

Keith reviewed open meeting rules and Zoom meeting rules of meeting

1. Review Approve

- a. February Meeting Minutes – not approved until next meeting
- b. Eliza reminded the committee about the call with Tree Warden and Chairs in April.

2. Design and Building Initiatives Impacting Trees

- a. Whittemore Park – no changes as of April
- b. AHS - Trees protected / Removed / Planting plan – work going on; fencing is up to protect 11 remaining trees thru to drip line (Malby Tree Service is the firm) canopy pruning, air spading to help preserve trees. More detailed signage is going up “Tree Protected Site”. Warden is meeting with contractors/landscapers once or more per week; trees have been removed to accommodate the building footprint which will be 80 feet from street.
- c. Wellington Park – Mystic River Watershed Association. Keith sent a survey to ATC which is phase II of the project. First phase of project has been reviewed with Tim. Compliance with stabilizing shoreline, Tim provided guidance back in 2019 on what trees to plant. Grove Street to adventure climbing area – it’s going to be ADA compliant.
- d. Lussiano - Phil: design out for bid. Tim worked with landscape architect to preserve 2 of the 4 Norway Maples, other two (in poor shape) will be removed. In general, budget is tight and DPW has helped support. Park/Rec process is detailed and takes time. There have been additional trees planned for the park. A lot of community volunteer effort, along with DPW’s support. It is unclear details on organizing watering of trees there this summer. Let’s get an Adopt a tree program.
- e. New Business: Mike Rademacher requested that ATC consider that during Covid any tree hearings go straight to Selectboard instead of tree warden first. Two projects wanting to move forward: Mass Ave Center. 14” Honey Locust to be removed. 10 other trees being planted,

with structural soil added. Second project is Lake Street and bike path, widening is needed and signaling (attachment proposal was provided by Mike Rademacher to ATC). ATC reviewed Ch87 law. Since MA Ave is a highway, it therefore does not require tree hearing as per law. Bike path trees are also not 'street trees' and Ch87 law would not apply. ATC suggested trees still should be posted with signage of proposal to remove and meeting at Selectboard (5/18 for MA Ave tree), and at a later date for bike path trees.

3. *Community Tree Canopy Program Spring 2020 – tremendous excitement by community*

- a. Trees delivered 8 May! 30 dogwoods and 10 maples
- b. DPW approved PO (Teresa deBenedictis) from Trees Please Fund
- c. Publicity / flyer / postings – Started April 22 – great response
- d. Funds will be deposited into Trees Please Funds = 50% of cost

4. *DPW Tree Dept/Tree Warden Update*

- a. *Tim is working in the office one-day-per-week right now. Some days 2 days per week. As state mandates changes, Tim's time in office will change. Tim will come in even during stay-at-home orders, to water, which does not conflict with stay-at-home orders.*
- b. Spring Street Tree planting canceled - Cambridge/Medford canceled programs for this spring as well. Monies will be encumbered from spring planting for fall.
- c. Tree Stakes and Gator Bags – Volunteers from ATC are removing some stakes and bags. Tim said they could be left across the street by tennis court brick pillars. ATC will keep working on taking down stakes/bags
- d. Help Watering young trees – so far, ground is hydrated. Moving forward, May/June/July/August : Park Circle, Thompson School, Elementary Schools from Arbor Day past plantings : Stratton school – (mountain ave); 4 trees at Hardy School (Brook Ave and Chandler) (**ATC can help**). Tim will be starting watering street trees from last Fall when he comes into the office on Fridays. . Tim thinks previous spring trees/fall trees DPW can take care of watering this summer. ATC will keep asking Tim if help is needed as summer town work is formulated.
- e. Tree hearing(s) - nothing outside of town projects. 17 Hathaway Circle, Hillside Ave. contacted Tim, who responded with cost and delays of tree hearings, no response yet.
- f. Tree Bylaw activity; 59 Mont Street has submitted tree plan (Ash Tree – outside will be protected), another tree (Japanese maple) will be removed.
- g. Tree Construction guidelines online? Tim has reached out to Joan and it will be posted on line. (Joan in on Mon, Tues, Thursday)
- h. EAB treatment plans – on hold
- i. Gas Leaks – task force has not met for a month. 5/14 a meeting with National Grid to talk about working with the town. **Susan will**

report back to committee, and she will send Tim the link to join 5/14 meeting.

- j. Tree inventory – ATC helping edit tree placement – continue to edit

5. *Publicity/Community Outreach*

- a. Grant Writing
- b. Possible Article -- Community Canopy Program -
- c. ATC Google Groups, Facebook and Instagram
- d. ATC website

6. *New Business*

- a. Planning Department Community Outreach – before COVID, planning dept was doing a lot of outreach, yet is moving slowly and not as apparent.

Next meeting: Wednesday, June 10.