



Arlington Tree Committee

Date: Thursday, June 11, 2020

Time: 7:30pm

Zoom meeting –

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

Attendance: Mary Ellen Aronow, Eliza Burden, Steve Moore, Keith Schnebly, Mara Vatz, Susan Stamps, Ed Trembly. *Visitors:* Tim Lecuire, Jo Anne Preston

1. *Review and Approve*

- a. February and May Meeting Minutes. Approved (Phil made one clarification on the minutes from last month related to Lussiano/North Union park - there will be additional trees planted as part of the renovation project, and we are working with the park and recreation commission).

2. *Design and Building Initiatives Impacting Trees*

- A. AHS. Going on accordingly. Arborist on site. A utility line had to go in behind trees but trees are being watered. They are doing what they are supposed to be doing
- B. Whittemore Park. No update
- C. Sunnyside Ave (last street off Broadway before Rte 16) – Engineering Dept is working on widening sidewalks to 42” wide (due to ADA non-compliance). There will be a public tree hearing for 3 trees. Wayne and Mike R working on a way to do this virtually or even outdoors on-site. Tim first suggested that the sidewalk only be on one side of the road (only impacting one tree) but neighbors didn’t like that idea. They want new trees planted and there is room for new trees. Most houses in area are two-families with no planting room in front yards. Tim will let us know when and where the public hearing will be held. Are these trees subject to input from the Conservation Commission? How will the removal of these trees impact area flooding? Tim will look into this
- D. Wellington Park – Looking for input. Tim feels this is in good hands. Mystic River Watershed Association
[virtual public meeting](#) - Wednesday, June 10, 7:00-8:00 pm
- E. Lussiano
- F. New

3. *Community Tree Canopy Program Spring 2020* – Mary Ellen will hand in money from the program tomorrow

4. *DPW Tree Dept/Tree Warden Update*

- a. Summer tree watering. We are working with Adam and Kelly of planning dept to establish an **Adopt-a-tree program**. No summer

crew will be hired. Adam K coming up with technological interface and Kelly doing the marketing. Eliza and Mary Ellen have provided text content and video watering instructions. Sustainable Arlington, Mothers Out Front and other groups are interested in helping with watering.

- b. Tree hearing(s). No public tree hearings other than Sunnyside Ave
- c. Tree Bylaw activity. Steve brought up a project to Tim on Arnold Rd. Tim spoke to them and they then submitted a tree plan but its still incomplete. All tree information MUST be online.
- d. Arl Tree Construction guidelines provided in hand now. Tim trying to get these posted online ASAP.
- e. EAB treatment plans. Tim sent out to bid so people need to respond by tomorrow June 12 at noon then they will pick a candidate and finalize a contract. Tim is working with Adam K so treatments will be logged into tree inventory so we can keep track. Phil is concerned about some ash trees in parks; he will reach out to Tim and alert him which ones. Maybe ask contractor if they'd be willing to give a special rate to private tree owners.
- f. Gas Leaks - Tim wasn't able to attend yesterday's gas leaks task force. But Tim continues to test sites. He has found indication of tree decline on Old Colony Road. He notifies National Grid and makes a claim. Now there's a multi-town task force, including Arlington, Salem, Winchester, Wellesley, Watertown. Adam Chapdelaine and Susan Stamps is very active with Gas Leaks Alliance. Arlington seems far ahead of other towns.
- g. Tree Stakes and Gator Bags – 2 year and older. Tim asks people to remove them if they're no longer serving a purpose.
- h. Working with the Tree Inventory:
 - Adopt-A-Tree program
 - EAB treatment tracking

5. *Publicity/Community Outreach*

- a. What to do in place of town day? Maybe our Adopt-A-Tree program is what we will focus on this fall instead of Town Day
- b. Grant Writing. No discussion
- c. Write ACMI story with photo -- Community Canopy Program. No discussion
- d. ATC Google Groups, Facebook and Instagram
- e. ATC website

6. *New Business*

- a. Town Meeting ATC interest / involvement. Town Meeting will be held outdoors at Peirce Field.
- b. By Law review. Concern that clearcutting is happening. Committee wants to consider expanding bylaw. Tim
- c. Joanne Preston, new Director of Arl Housing Authority wants to plant trees on Housing Authority land, specifically at Chestnut Manor and other properties. Residents could help with watering.

Tim feels that if people are willing to water, he could probably find funds to purchase trees. ATC was enthusiastic about idea. Jo Anne will talk to the Board and then communicate with Tim. Tim will float the idea to Mike R.

- d. Planning Department Community Outreach
- e. Trees Please Fund. Monies are being earmarked as they come into the Trees Please fund. Susan revisited the idea of using funds in the vicinity of where trees were removed. Are we just accumulating money in the fund? Tim will talk to Teresa and Mike R or ATC could talk about this.
- f. Stockbridge Students hired as summer interns to expand the inventory.

Meeting adjourned at 9:17pm.

Next meeting: Wednesday, July 8.