

Arlington Tree Committee

Date: Wednesday, September 9, 2020 7:30pm

Zoom meeting

In attendance, Mary Ellen Aronow, Eliza Burden, Steve Moore, Mara Vatz, Ed Trembly, Keith Schnibly, Susan Stamps, Tim Lecuivre, Visitors: Karen, Alan

Minutes

- 1. Review and Approve
 - a. Prior Meeting Minutes August Minutes APPROVED after minor edits
- 2. Design and Building Initiatives Impacting Trees -
 - Mass Ave Sidewalk Repair Project Ongoing (planting several replacement trees, species tbd by availability at nursery); two additional trees might have to come down
 - b. Lake St Project 8 new trees will be planted this fall (tulip, Linden, Hornbeam)
 - c. AHS leave trees are being protected, yet need water
 - d. Whittemore Park no updated information
 - e. Old Burial Ground renovation project removing trees. Marquis Tree Service removed 5 trees plus smaller shrubs. 5 new trees being planted. Action:
 Watering plan still needs to be figured out
 - f. Wellington Park no update
 - g. Lussiano Park/Thompson School 10 new trees planted. Tim worked with the team to make sure planting was done properly. Watering volunteers doing a good job; Phil T has been integral to this effort.
 - h. Mirak Development Still in the planning sessions. Action: ATC reps can attend public input sessions starting this Fall
 - i. 840 Mass Ave Eliza met with management company and discussed the possibility of planting street trees on the property. She has been trying to reach out to management company to discuss further but hasn't heard from them. Action: Eliza will reach out to Mike R to discuss if off berm tree planting could be possible here
 - j. Mugar undeveloped land Keith attended the last meeting and then shared the upcoming meetings:
 - i. Traffic flow and safety (Sept. 22)
 - ii. Wetland impacts and stormwater management (Oct. 13)
 - iii. General civil engineering matters (Oct. 27)
 - iv. Architecture, landscape architecture and open space (Nov. 10)
 - v. Density and overall design (Nov. 24, Thanksgiving Week)
 - vi. Pro forma review (Dec. 8)
 - vii. Conditions Review and Decision (Dec. 22, Christmas Week)
- 3. DPW Tree Dept/Tree Warden Update
 - a. Summer tree watering
 - i. Adopt-a-Tree 80+ trees adopted; volunteers seem to be engaged and trees have been taken care of well during this drought time. ATC has received nice emails and photos of trees. ATC is adhering yellow ribbons to show which trees are adopted. More ribbons need to be attached.
 - ii. Additional intern? DPW is exploring hiring a Fall tree watering intern

iii. Purchase a second watering truck? - Action: Mara/Phil will continue dialogue with DPW that they initiated last March

- b. Tree hearing(s)
 - i. Sunnyside Ave Tree Hearing Held Since there was so much pushback, the Engineering dept is looking for solutions that minimize tree removal
 - ii. 48 Tanager Engineering dept will reconfigure the road / sidewalk work that is negatively impacting homeowner's driveway. They are trying to save the trees.
- c. Tree Bylaw activity;
 - i. 25 Brunswick Tree plan received Eight trees within setback will be preserved and protected. Multiple trees (total of 142" DBH within the setback) will be removed; these fees were paid to town. Neighbors wrote a memo about their concern for loss of canopy. ATC met with neighbors, spoke to builder's attorney, and the landscape architect to discuss strategies. ATC working on plan to use the fees collected to plant in the neighborhood; this may be difficult due to the surrounding streets mostly being private streets. Action: ATC needs to revisit the off-berm tree planting document drafted in 2013. Susan will discuss with Doug Heim.
 - ii. 64 Lansdowne Street Tim expects a tree plan to be submitted soon
 - iii. 364 Appleton St. This project (construction now complete) is considered by Tim as a good example of a developer who did a notable job of preserving trees during construction. Action: Steve will consider ways of having ATC recognize developers/ residents who do a good job honoring bylaw
- d. EAB treatment plans treated 3000 inches to date. Brooks Ave / Lake Street.
 3 ash trees around Hardy School may have EAB. Warden alerted State,
 waiting for state results.
- e. Gas Leaks
- 4. Publicity/Community Outreach
 - a. Grant Writing? not discussed
 - b. ACMI interview ATC on 8/5 for Adopt-a-Tree Program. Eliza posted to FB
 - ACMI story with photo -- Community Canopy Program who will take on? not discussed
 - d. ATC Google Groups, Facebook and Instagram not discussed
 - e. ATC website need to consider upgrade who will take on? not discussed
 - f. Correspondence received
 - i. 22 Cherokee Street neighbor alerted ATC of purchase/sale and large trees on property – tree plan should be coming
 - ii. Multiple new tree adopters communicated with ATC, mostly happy about the program and shared photos of their trees. Some technical issues, ATC resolved.

5. New Business

- a. Trees failing on school grounds (neglect and poor pruning) Mara provided .ppt of trees at Hardy, Thompson, Gibbs to illustrate her concerns. Action:
 Mara draft letter to DPW to demonstrate that there needs to be a better plan for caring for town trees on Park/Rec/School property
- b. Petition to save Melnea Cass trees. Briefly mentioned that there is an effort being made to revisit the plans for removal of these trees due to the pushback
- c. Town governance and Tree Hearings not discussed
- d. Trees Please Funds monies in, monies out, and use for tree planting not discussed
- e. Bylaw review subcommittee Susan provided a few ideas for the ATC to consider: i.e. expanding the area for Protected Tree status; incentivizing developers to add trees. Work will continue. Need to ensure that changes don't

add too much to Tree Warden workload. Warrant for 2021 opening in 3 months.

- f. Planning Department Community Outreach not discussed
- g. Menotomy Rocks Park Park/Rec picked the tree, Tree Warden decided on location. ATC is aware that there seems to be some controversy over species/location.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:29pm

Next meeting: Wednesday, October 14, 2020