



## Arlington Tree Committee

Date: Wednesday, December 9, 2020

Time: 7:30pm

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

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

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

In attendance: Eliza Burden, Mary Ellen Aronow, Phil Tedesco, Steve Moore, Keith Schnebly, Mara Vatz, Susan Stamps, Ed Trembly. Tree Warden Tim Lecuire. Visitor: Beth Melofchik

### Minutes

1. *Review and Approve November Minutes* - APPROVED
2. *Design and Building Initiatives Impacting Trees* –
  - a. AHS - no new info
  - b. Lake Street project - tree planting there will occur in spring
  - c. Mugar (next meetings:10 December) No action to report at 24 Nov meeting
  - d. Mass Ave improvements; discuss Broadway Plaza. Eliza mentioned that if there's an opportunity to revisit the plan for this plaza, she would like to try to preserve the mature trees in this area (especially the ones closest to the buildings) despite the underground infrastructure work that is expected. Action: Tim will mention to Mike R**
  - e. Lussiano – The trees that were to be added on south side of Thompson (Linden and tulip) with spring planting may be relocated to the Lussiano playground vicinity. Mara/Phil are consulting with designers to accommodate these additional trees
3. *DPW Tree Dept/Tree Warden Update*
  - a. Report on general tree condition from 11/30 storm - tree loss in cemetery; and a couple street trees around town, including a large 28" Norway maple on Winchester Rd.
  - b. Fall planting – progress status - 200 street trees successfully planted and watered once + 6 ball & burlap trees in Mt Pleasant cemetery.
  - c. Tree hearing(s) - none
  - e. Tree Bylaw activity -
    - a. 22 Cherokee Road (John Carney) (teardown/rebuild) no trees in setback or street trees, yet a 48" Oak in the backyard that isn't a "Protected Tree". He says he will do what he can to preserve it by following tree protection guidelines, but will be challenging given that critical root zone of the tree is ~18.5 feet. Even though the tree isn't under the bylaw, it is promising that builder reached out to Tim to learn how to protect tree. **Action: Tim will continue discussions with builder.**
    - b. Rockmount Road – contractor reached out to building department to remove roof/floor and small addition. Then, without alerting bldg. dept, the builder removed almost entire structure, violating both the Good Neighbor Agreement and Tree Bylaw (and misrepresented permit). Tim submitted to town counsel the fines for this: removal of 11" white birch (\$50 fee +11X375/in) +300 fine + 300/day from when permit was issued = compliance.

- c. 32 Avola Street work commencing. Tim will look into this
  - d. Vacant house on Dothan Street is clearcutting – Tim will investigate
  - f. EAB budget 2021 and additional funding follow up: may need to strategize on which trees to treat (with the \$30K budget) to be able to fund treatment over the long haul (estimate of \$121K to treat + \$70k to treat every other year). 3,000 dbh inches were treated already. Need to treat 10,500 inches (@\$10/inch).
  - i. Trees Please Fund accounting - lengthy discussion around process for accounting for Article 16 trees' which were removed and funds collected. Discussion of ways to better utilize the funds from this account (plant at cemeteries, school, expand community canopy program, etc). **Action: Eliza and Mary Ellen to follow up with DPW.**
- 4. Certificate for builders working well w bylaw (Steve) - Eliza/Mary Ellen/Steve will meet to discuss adding a photo to the certificate. **ACTION: discuss before next meeting and ask for ATC approval for this 'program'.**
- 5. Adopt-A-Tree Program
  - a. Dec 9 wrap up meeting w Adam, Kelly, Tim. 107 trees adopted. Great community engagement. Good use of tree inventory. Plan being formulated for next year's program. **Action: End of Season Letter to be sent to 2020 participants from ATC requesting feedback; kickoff 2021 program**
- 6. Bylaw review subcommittee (Susan, Mary Ellen) -
  - a. Ideas for discussion for amendments: Warrant for Town Meeting needs to be submitted in 1.5 months. Action: Keith, Susan and MEA will meet to discuss the possibility of:
    - i. cover all trees on property that is being developed, not just in setback.
    - ii. cover any kind of development of the property
    - iii. provide incentives to developers to put more trees back on the property since often neighborhoods cannot support additional street tree planting as in case of Brunswick Rd (private road)
- 7. *Publicity/Community Outreach*
  - a. Grant Writing
  - b. ATC website update needed –MEA reached out to AHS computer club, no response yet. The WIX program might be an option for website
  - c. Correspondence received
- 8. *New Business*
  - a. Along Rt2 between Arlington and 128 trees have been cut in masses for miles (**Ed will investigate why they have to cutback so far away from highway**)
  - b. Planting more public trees on private property – option for Trees Please monies since finding planting locations for street trees can be a challenging
  - c. Prince Hall Cemetery - tree planting opportunity? (Eliza) – Land is owned by a group in Dorchester and planting trees could be a challenge because it is unclear just where on site are the burials. **Action: Tim and Susan will see if there are options for street tree planting there**
  - d. Purchase second watering truck? (Mara/Phil). Discussion about whether Trees Please funds could be used for this.
  - e. CDBG grant applications due Jan 15; info session Dec 17/ Chestnut Manor. JoAnne Preston's idea of planting at AHA sites was briefly presented. Since funds may be available from the Trees Please fund, this would be something to explore before submitting a grant application for CDBG funds. **ACTION: Invite JoAnne to January meeting.**

**Next meeting:** Wednesday, January 13, 2020 7:30 pm

Adjourned at 9:28pm

