



Arlington Tree Committee

Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021

Time: 7:30pm

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

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

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

Minutes

In attendance: Eliza Burden, Mary Ellen Aronow, Mara Vatz, Keith Schnebly, Ed Trembly, Steve Moore, guests: Jo Anne Preston, Anne Meyerson, Maggie McKee, Seema Khan

1. *Approve December Meeting Minutes = APPROVED with edits*
 - No action on Mugar instead of No report
 - Page 2, second line: vacant house on Dothan Street
2. *DPW Tree Department Update (Tim)*
 - Tree hearing(s) - none
 - Tree Bylaw activity
 - 9 Rockmont had not complied with Good Neighbor or Tree Bylaw but now is in compliance by submitting Tree Plan and fee (\$375/inch + \$300/day + \$300 = \$13,175). 11" white birch removed; no other trees coming down.
 - 32 Avola Street – submitted Tree Plan, which is conserving trees. Side note: 27 Avola Street was purchased by Seaver; large Oak tree is being removed
 - Tim looked at the Dothan Road house but it does not fall under the Bylaw as they are not increasing footprint; (same contractor that paid \$26k for taking down trees at 41 Westminster)
 - Trees Please meeting with Mike R (Eliza and Mary Ellen, Susan, Keith, Steve) –
 - i. Eliza briefed ATC on the Jan 7 meeting. **Action: ATC will assemble a subcommittee to help develop ways to spend funds to achieve ATC objectives (Keith, MEA, Eliza).**
 - ii. Annual Report to include Trees Please expenditures
3. *Design Initiatives in Town with potential to impact trees*
 - Mugar – Jan 12 meeting was focused on traffic impact
 - 1165R Massachusetts Avenue (Mirak development) – Susan attended most recent ARB meeting and notified them that there is a Tree Bylaw and that Tree Warden must be consulted.
 - AHS – Eliza has an aerial picture of the construction zone that shows the significance of the tree protection zone in place there
4. Publicity/Community Outreach

- Website update drafted by Natalie B. EB and MEA will work on getting this up and running. Natalie said she could be available to consult if need be
 - Fix link to Construction Guidelines on the Town website. **Action: Mara will edit the Construction Guidelines: (1' of critical root zone for every 1" of tree DBH)/2). She will also alert Joan Roman that the link to construction guidelines on the Town website should appear on the Tree Dept page as well as ATC.**
5. *Community Tree Canopy Program – Spring 2021/Timeline for promotion – (Keith, Eliza, MEA)* We discussed ways we can expand this program given the availability of funds from bylaw fees. **Action: MEA will set up a meeting with Keith and Eliza**
 6. *Adopt-a-Tree Program (Ending 2020 program and starting 2021 program) –* ATC sent a letter to 2020 adopters to end the 2020 program. All 2020 adopted trees will be released. **Action: ATC will reach out to those people that requested a tree in the Fall to see if they are wanting to formally adopt it. Soonafter, ATC will send out a kick off note to adopt new trees.**
 7. *Bylaw Review/Updates from subcommittee*
 - Brief discussion about possible Bylaw amendments for 2021 town meeting:
 - i. Apply to any removal of trees on property? This would save more trees on the properties
 - ii. Decided to delay amendments for this year
 8. **New Business --**
 - Jo Anne Preston attended meeting to discuss ways that ATC might be able to support planting of trees at the 5 Arlington Housing Authority facilities.
 - *Chestnut Manor*: benches could use shade trees (6 or 7 trees). Next AHA meeting 1/20. (tree type offered by Tree Warden and tenants could select some).
 - *Menotomy Manor* – low income family housing – would like to have education/children involved in caring for new trees planted.
 - 5 AHA building sites. 3 of the sites have little space for big trees, but maybe some smaller flowering trees.
 - CusakTerrece (by DD/Police Station) residents are eager to have some outside gardening/landscaping. Benches outside could use some shade trees.
 - Drake Village received a large grant for landscaping. Discuss using Trees Please funds. Discussion to hire contractor to plant.
 - **Action: Eliza to follow up with JoAnn Preston**
 - Correspondence to ATC received since last meeting. No feedback from Adopt-a-Tree program was received after sending out end of season letter in December
 - Hiring interns for programs. Could we enhance programs we offer by getting help?
 - ARB approved new hotel project on Mass Ave which has trees – Tim is not aware of this hotel. **Action: Susan will provide info to Tim about this project**

Next meeting: February 10, 2021.

Meeting adjourned 9:30pm