



Arlington Tree Committee

Date: Wednesday, May 12, 2021

Time: 7:30pm

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

<https://town-arlington-ma-us.zoom.us/j/98235746110>

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

Minutes

In attendance: Eliza Burden, Mary Ellen Aronow, Susan Stamps, Mara Vatz, Steve Moore, Ed Trembly, Keith Schnebly, Tim Lecuivre. Visitor: Peggy Gardiner

1. *Approve April Meeting Minutes – Minutes Approved*
2. *DPW Tree Department Update (Tim)*
 - Tree hearing(s) -none
 - Tree Bylaw activity -36 – 34 Beacon Street
 - Spring planting – 200 trees, targeting heat islands: all bare root. And additional 20 trees: 2 @ Thompson, 8 @ Lake Street 10 @ Mt Pleasant Cemetery
 - Arbor Day – 2 trees planted at cemetery, pictures will be added to town website; Eliza posted to FB
 - Ecofest plans – no trees.
 - Other –
 - i. Tree Dept moving to 23 Maple Street (2nd floor) from Grove Street (for 16 – 18 months).
 - ii. Hardy school: playground redo but not protecting trees. Tree Warden is trying to get there when crew is there.
 - iii. 33 Ridge Street – no tree protections, no tree plan. Can ATC help get the word out again about Article 16.
 - iv. Are there developers who are repeat offenders to poor choices around trees? Tim discussing with Town Manager.
 - v. Construction guidelines will be made more available in the Building department.
 - vi. Interviewing now for summer-time jobs (watering)
3. *Community Tree Canopy Program – Spring 2021 (Keith/MEA)*. 50 trees purchased and delivered. Map showing tree planting sites was very popular on Facebook. Keith has a few extras at his house, will target a few location to place the rest.
4. *Report from Subcommittee re: Expanding Tree Planting in Town*
 - Planting in Neighborhoods where trees have been lost -
 - Arlington Housing Authority spring planting – 7 trees delivered to AHA's Chestnut Manor (still need electrical plan from JoAnn Preston) and then they will be planted there
 - Children's Room planting – maybe use 2 of the canopy trees left. **Action: EEB will propose the idea.**
 - Back-of-sidewalk - no more discussion

- Streamlining process – Could ATC have an “allowance” that they can use to purchase trees if a planting site/recipient meets the “criteria” for targeted tree planting? Action: Need to finalize ‘criteria check list’ and get approved by DPW
5. *Adopt-a-Tree Program (2021 program) (MEA/EB)*
- *2021 Kick off – June 1st (400+ trees with green bags on them). Adam K to check that new trees are added to map. SM connected with Adam K to remove the 2020 yellow ribbons*
6. *Publicity/Community Outreach*
- Website update - please send MEA changes; thank you to Natalie Burden for her update
 - Outreach/liaisons to town orgs
 - i. ARB - 190 Mass Ave
 - ii. ZBA – 53 Pine Ridge Road: need special permit & big trees on it. 190/192 Mystic Park Way – tree protection near new parking, Thorndike Place (Mugar) & 1065R (Myrak) Mass Ave.
 - iii. Park and Rec – none
 - iv. Res work: State (DCR) project to remove trees started. There will be tree planting in replacement – native plantings
 - v. School Comm – Hardy School (Mara).
 - vi. Open Space
 - Town Meeting handout/report (Susan)
7. *New Business*
- *Memorial tree for Elaine Shea – AYCC (memorial tree planting in September – ask DPW; Patsy Kraemer is involved)*
 - *Diversity of ATC membership – how to recruit member? Who knows about us? Are we known to all parts of town? What are some ways we can be more inclusive = translating our messaging into other languages (Tree Canopy Program & Adopt-a-Tree program into languages). How does our lack of diversity impact what we focus on? Tree Canopy Program as designed excludes people: Need to be a homeowner, need green space, need \$\$ to do it.*
 - *Trees on school property: historical loss of trees on school property. Concern with establishment of trees and pruning of trees; Who is in charge of school trees? (probably roughly 500 trees in total on school grounds). Spending \$\$\$\$ for new trees to replace trees. **Action: Outreach to groups to educate***
 - *Educate on trees, run programs to the community about caring for trees (look outside Clerk’s office, where groups agendas are posted – may give us a list to focus on). Sustainable Arlington; Mothers out Front; places of worship; Boys & Girls club, schools.*

Next meeting: June 9, 2021

Meeting Adjourned: 9:10pm