



## Arlington Tree Committee

Date: Wednesday, September 8, 2021

Time: 7:30pm

Location: Zoom meeting – **You must Register in advance for this meeting:** <https://town-arlington-ma-us.zoom.us/join/91234567890>

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

### MINUTES

*Eliza Burden, Mary Ellen Aronow, Susan Stamps, Mara Vatz, Steve Moore, Keith Schnebly, Visitors: Tim Lecuire, Mike Rademacher, Mary Gilbert, Beth Melofchik, Susan Ann Kehler, Ellen Cohen, Gary Goldsmith*

1. *Approve August Meeting Minutes. APPROVED*
2. *DPW Tree Department Update (Tim)*
  - Construction and trees news –
    - i. *Broadway Plaza Project – In the 2019/2020 sidewalk improvement effort, 6 trees came down but 14 were planted; flexible porous pavement and engineered soil were utilized. The Broadway Plaza part of the project was paused while waiting for MWRA work to start. Now it's started. Mike R will attend Monday Select Board to ask to take down trees for project. A total of 9 trees are proposed for removal: three trees MUST be taken down to access the underground MWRA pipes; another 6 trees are threatened. Tree Committee discussed and is pleased that some of the mature trees are being preserved, especially along the south side of the project area, and understands that the three trees need to be removed for work to be done. ATC feels strongly that efforts should be made to preserve the 6 mature trees most of which are close to the buildings. Mike R says he will return to the designers to see what creative efforts could be undertaken to preserve these and comply with ADA requirements. Existing trees were planted ca. 1985. Mike reported that the landscape current plan has new trees planted will be large, balled and burlap trees of 3-5" caliper.*
    - ii. *3 trees need to be removed this fall for MWRA work to start. Rest of threatened trees won't come down until spring 2022, so we have some more time to come up with alternative plans. One ATC member asked if there could be any shade structure added to compensate for lack of shade?*
  - *Tree Bylaw activity. DPW is now earmarking deposits to Trees Please fund to keep better track of what comes in as fine, hearing fee, etc. Three tree plans were submitted:*
    - i. *34 Melvin Rd (villandry) 1 unhealthy oak removed.*
    - ii. *0 Kenilworth – wooded lot- 2 trees in setback (16" and 12") will be removed. Fees have been paid.*
    - iii. *53 Rhinecliff. 0 trees removed, many preserved. ('substantial demo ie. >50%).*
  - *Tree hearing(s) - none*
  - *Fall tree watering / Fall tree planting – 200 trees planted this fall (requests still coming in). He will fulfill any tree requests and then plant in heat zones and artic. 16 areas. Tim will let ATC know if he needs us to solicit for tree requests*
  - *Tree health / mgmt news.*

- Other
    - i. Interns are done for the season. Need to make certain they are avail until late august. They left earlier than hoped. Staff doing extra hours watering.
    - ii. To help with watering, ATC should do Fall Adopt -A -Tree town notice and social media blast
    - iii. EAB – will start up again next season. Keeping an eye on Spotted Lantern Fly
3. *Report from Subcommittee re: Expanding Tree Planting in Town*
- Arlington Housing Authority Menotomy Manor (Keith) – Keith and JoAnn visited the site and determined 8-12 trees could be planted. Keith exploring how to acquire trees.  
**ACTION: provide JoAnn a conceptual plan prior to AHA Board meeting on Sept 25**
  - Heat zone targeted planting – apt building manager outreach (Steve) – nothing to report
  - Planting on private ways – (Susan) – no update
  - Back of sidewalk – DCR encourages a back of sidewalk plan. Somerville and Watertown are among those offering this option. In Arlington, we would propose that trees are planted by the town, yet owned and taken care of by the homeowner.
  - Outreach to Arlington Planning Dept (Eliza) – **Action: Eliza/Susan/MEA are meeting with Planning Dept (Jenny Raitt) to discuss tree preservation and planting more broadly in town**
4. Report on Bylaw review for 2022 (Susan)
- Some proposed changes: back of sidewalk tree planting allowed, surcharge on removal of trees over a certain size, during development Protected Trees expand to include all trees on the property inside setback, tightening up the definition of demolition and renovation (think Russell Terrace project), replanting options to incentivize builders to plant trees back on a bylaw property
5. *Publicity/Community Outreach*
- DCR Community Forester webinar (Sept 30) planning/prep (Tim, ATC volunteer)
    - i. Tim reported that Julie Coop has downscaled the program and Arlington will have no role now. (Tim had planned to use the GIS inventory, and highlight a number of Arlington tree topics using our GIS map as an interactive map that allows residents to use the map to submit a tree concern or make a tree request.
  - Website editing (Steve/Mary Ellen/Eliza). No discussion
  - Outreach/liaisons to town orgs (ARB, ZBA, Park and Rec, Open Space, School Comm). No discussion
  - Broader inclusion / equity of ATC materials, programs, and members/ translations
    - i. Construction guidelines translated
    - ii. Adopt-a-tree translated
6. *New Business*
- *Mothers out Front event to highlight gas leaks in town adding Tree Committee table:*
    - i. *September 25<sup>th</sup> – Table on Broadway (10 – 1pm) – Susan is available. She will report back to the ATC to see the additional dates will be beneficial for ATC to attend; Oct 2 (10 – 1pm), Oct 9 (10 – 1pm)*
  - Gas leaks: only a few municipalities (out of 320) in the state are going up against the gas company. Tim is one of those trying to receive compensation for lost trees due to gas leaks.
  - There are 10 full time, stand alone, tree wardens in the state. Commonwealth has a program to get folks educated and up-to-speed on topics

**Next meeting:** October 13

Meeting adjourned 9:15pm