



Arlington Tree Committee

Date: Wednesday, October 13, 2021

Time: 7:30pm

Location: Zoom meeting – .

Minutes

In attendance: Eliza Burden, Mary Ellen Aronow, Keith Schnebly, Steve Moore, Ed Trembly. Others: Tim Lecuivre, and guests: Suchitra Chari, David White, Eileen Coleman.

1. *Approve September Meeting Minutes - Approved*
2. *DPW Tree Department Update (Tim)*
 - Construction and trees news
 - i. Whittemore Park renovation is complete. Will be monitoring health of large retained trees next spring. Irrigation in place for new trees, shrubs and sod. Unclear if tree watering is being done by irrigation and if it's sufficient (Tim will check)
 - ii. AHS – mature trees along Mass Ave were air spaded and root pruned to accommodate installation of safety lighting and new sidewalks. This spring, these trees will be fertilized and pruned, if needed. Tim pleased that the Project Arborist contacted him to communicate.
 - iii. Broadway project – Tim met with MWRA engineer (on Coral Street) where main water line comes in, run downs Rawson Road, to Warren Street, and then goes to Broadway. Digging will occur on Warren and Parrel Street. Pipes will be cleaned and re-lined. One tree will be pruned. MWRA will need to work with DCR and Conservation Commission.
 - Tree Bylaw activity
 - i. A tree plan for 20 Lafayette is expected. Large project, want to remove 12" pine. They will be keeping a 20" maple. Tim awaiting for final Tree Plan.
 - Tree hearing(s)
 - i. None
 - Fall tree watering / Fall tree planting
 - i. 200 bare root trees to be coming in ~ mid November. Targeting heat islands, locations where Article 16 trees came down, and tree requests.
 - ii. Corner of Forest Street and Summer Street, an island has already been planted with 1 conifer
 - iii. 10 evergreens will be planted on Spring Street by the pump house. White cedar, black pine, and chinese juniper. (coming from Weston Nursery in Hopkinton)
 - iv. 8 trees planted in the Old Burial Ground (working with Historical Commission and Town Manager): 4 sugar maples and 4 red cedars
 - v. 2 memorial trees will be planted at Whittemore Robbins House by the playground. One in memory of Elaine Shea from AYCC. Both will be Jefferson Elms.
 - Tree health / mgmt news

- i. Tim reported that Spotted Lanternfly has been found in Fitchburg. This pest attacks many tree types including Tree of Heaven and crops such as grapes and apples. Insecticide use can help treat but research is ongoing
- ii. Due to heavy rain this season, apple scab and anthracnose is heavy in town; Tim hopeful that trees will leaf out fine next year despite foliage damage evident this fall.

3. *Report from Subcommittee re: Expanding Tree Planting in Town*

- Arlington Housing Authority Menotomy Manor (Keith) – trees at Chestnut Manor look good. Keith walked Menotomy Manor with Jo Anne, and residents are interested in being involved with tree care at that site. Purchase order @ Mahoney's , 8 trees are scheduled to be delivered on Friday, contractor to plant. Trees Please funds being used. **Action: Keith to check authorization by new AHA Director before planting next week.**
- Mary Ellen and Eliza briefed the committee on their meetings with:
 - 1. Jenny Raitt in September about prioritizing expanded tree planting in town particularly in areas targeted as urban heat island zones. Planning dept was supportive to help in multiple ways. One was connecting us with the Chamber of Commerce to hope we can find businesses properties to plant. **Action: Eliza/Mary Ellen/Susan trying to arrange a meeting at end of October with Chamber of Commerce.**
 - 2. Town Counsel Doug Heim to discuss our Community Canopy program, a potential new "Back-of-Sidewalk" tree planting program (that other neighboring communities now offer) and planting on private ways. Town Counsel has drafted some legal documents which we are reviewing and will review with Tim/Mike R. **Action: MEA, Susan and Eliza will continue to work with Doug on drafting documents**
- Heat zone targeted planting – apartment building manager outreach (Steve). Steve reported that no progress on this but that some of the initiatives mentioned above could pertain to apartment complexes.
- UU Church at Pleasant and Mass Ave have expressed interest in planting new trees on their property. **Action: Eliza will talk to Tim about the options available to them.** Perhaps a candidate for a pilot Back of Sidewalk planting opportunity?

4. *Publicity/Community Outreach*

- Website editing (Steve/Mary Ellen/Eliza) – **Action: Steve and Mary Ellen will work on uploading tree pictures. Large (or Historic) trees. Steve will look into a 1976 document that Doreen Stevens of Historical Society mentioned that identified historic trees at that time. Do some of these remain?**
- Outreach/liaisons to town orgs (ARB, ZBA, Park and Rec, Open Space, School Comm, Conservation Commission)
 - i. Conservation Commission meeting re: 70 – 86 Coolidge road. Trees taken down were already dead. Noted resident mentioned their neighbor had taken down "several trees" on their property, recently sold. Tim will see if Tree Plan comes in.
 - ii. ZBA: board is rendering decision on Thorndike Place, all input for this project is closed at this time.
 - iii. ARB: Susan, not reported at this meeting
- Broader inclusion / equity of ATC materials, programs, and members/ translations (Mara is working on tracking down resources to translate these 2 documents):
 - i. Construction guidelines translated
 - ii. Adopt-a-tree translated,
 - iii. Eliza added: Community Tree Canopy Program document to the translate list

5. Report on Bylaw review for 2022 (will be discussed at November meeting)

6. *New Business*

- *Tree Equity website – maybe put it on the website.*
- *Ellen Cohen and Beth Melofchik are working to submit a CPA application to restore Cookes Hollow. They will be working with the Conservation Commission. Beth will follow up with Tree Committee*
- *Stratton school sidewalk plan. State funded. Project would include taking down 8 trees. Tim is reviewing the health of the trees and advising but understands that state (and its contractors) has to comply with ADA. Project is in the initial stages. Public input meetings are planned.*

Next meeting: November 10th

Adjourn: 9:10pm