



Arlington Tree Committee

Date: Wednesday, December 8, 2021

Time: 7:30pm

Location: Zoom meeting – **You must Register in advance for this meeting:** <https://town-arlington-ma-us.zoom.us/join/98219479791>

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

Minutes

In attendance: Mary Ellen Aronow, Eliza Burden, Susan Stamps, Steve Moore, Keith Schnebly, Mara Vatz.
Others: Tim Lecuivre, Wynelle Evans, Beth Melofchik

1. *Approve November Meeting Minutes (approved)*
2. *DPW Tree Department Update (Tim)*
 - Tree Bylaw activity
 - i. **24 Maynard Street** (John Carney builder, 1 5" apple tree being removed, not healthy), protecting a honeylocust
 - ii. **25 Highland Ave** (no trees removed, 3 trees protected – mulberry, boxelder and cherry all >20") and street tree (norway maple) will be protected
 - iii. **144 Charlton St.** (Seaver Constr) plans to remove 1 tree (Norway, double trunk, adds up to 53").
 - iv. **77 Rhinecliff:** No plan submitted yet, but did call for input. Builder wants to remove honeylocust and caltapa (unhealthy). Tim encouraged him to rotate his house plan to retain the healthy honeylocust.
 - Tree hearing(s) - none
 - Fall tree planting/watering. No more official watering. 221 trees this fall (\$\$ out of the DPW tree budget) 8 trees in old burial ground (4 maple, 4 cedar); 2 Jefferson Elm Memorial trees at Whittemore Robbins House; 10 Evergreens on Spring street; 1 evergreen at Forest St
 - Tree health / mgmt news – spotted lantern fly found in Fitchburg. Insect was killed and trees were taken down. If one is found, USDA and DCR is notified. **RECOMMEND: ATC put out PSA re: the spotted lanternfly**
 - Tree species for spring – not sure what is available for the season yet.
 - Other
 - i. Watering of new Memorial trees – **Action: need to notify AYCC and Patsy K to water**
 - ii. Stratton, safe walk to school – Tim notified them that there needs to be a tree hearing for any healthy trees suggested to be removed. No final plans yet
 - iii. Other town projects where trees are present –no new news.
3. Report on Bylaw review for 2022 (Susan)
 - Discussion of proposed changes (**ACTION: set up special Committee Meeting to only discuss bylaw in late December or first week in January, prior to January 12 monthly ATC meeting, leaving enough time to discuss results with others in town**)
 - *Change demolition definition: new construction or expanding the structure footprint by 50% or more: Change the definition of demolition to: defined as*

- pulling down razing, destroying the structure, or the removing of the roof, or removing of 2 or more exterior walls, or commencing of work of any of these.*
- *Protected trees: not just the trees within the setback but all the trees on the property.** (need to discuss with Tim, as doing this seems to add a substantial # of trees and work)*
 - *If builder thinks tree bylaw doesn't apply, and does not submit a Plan, the builder would need to sign an affidavit stating that there are no Protected trees and therefore no need to submit a Tree Plan.*
 - *To add back in the planting option to offset some of fees and to incentivize planting on site where trees were removed, with language which states if the trees die, they will be required to replace. (Winchester, Concord, Lexington, Newton all have a planting option)*
 - *Need to add language to bylaw that a certified arborist or other landscape professional be consulted to develop a Tree Plan so Tim doesn't end up doing these for builder.*
4. *Report from Subcommittee re: Expanding Tree Planting in Town*
- Arlington Housing Authority Menotomy Manor. Watering (Keith)
 - Work with Town Counsel to expand planting on private property. (Action: SS to follow up)
 1. Community Canopy Program
 2. Back of sidewalk Program
 - Planning Dept/Chamber of Commerce Tree Planting Initiatives. Eliza has been in touch with Beth Locke to discuss tree planting at businesses in our hotter zones in town. Will follow up in New Year.
 - Attendance (virtual) at Alliance for Community Trees Nov. Conference (Eliza)
5. *Publicity/Community Outreach*
- Adopt A Tree Program 2021. End of season - get message out to Adopters to thank volunteers and to remove colored ribbon. Adam K can be consulted if necessary (**ACTION: MEA /Eliza will edit end of year message and push out note to adopters**)
 - Community Canopy Program 2022 – No discussion
 - Outreach to town orgs (ARB, ZBA, Park&Rec, Op Space, School Comm, ConComm). No discussion
 - Broader inclusion/equity of ATC materials, programs, and members. No discussion
6. *New Business*
- Cooke's Hollow. Visitor Beth Melofchik reported she has submitted an application for CPA funds for exploring the restoration of this park and has support of Planning Dept. She asked for ATC to write letter of support of. *ATC voted to support this. **By December 17th (Mara is willing to work on this).*** (see materials sent to ATC by Beth on 12/7/2021)
 - "Into the Woods" Exhibit. No discussion.
 - Put in new language to encourage shade tree planting into various bylaws in town (ie. Zoning bylaw)
 - Wynelle Evans: a TMM . Served on residential study committee which created Good Neighbor Agreement: suggests an edit to Good Neighbor Agreement which would require that a Tree Plan is **filed with inspectional services**. A separate amendment needs to have language changed to say: a site plan **and** a tree plan, rather than the current language of a site plan or a tree plan. Raises awareness that trees are being cut down. Wants ATC support for this language change.

Next meeting: January 12th

Meeting adjourned @ 9:40 pm