



Arlington Tree Committee Minutes

Date: Wednesday, April 13 7:30 PM

Location: Meeting conducted remotely, via Zoom.

In attendance: Mary Ellen Aronow, Steve Moore, Keith Schnebly, Susan Stamps, Ed Trembly, Mara Vatz, Tim Lecuivre (Arlington Tree Warden), Beth Melofchik (Guest)

1. *Approve March Meeting Minutes*

March 2022 minutes APPROVED (unanimous)

(Mary Ellen to check with Lauren in the Select Board office to confirm that minutes are up to date on the town website. Residents have reported they cannot find the minutes after 2020)

2. *Department of Public Works (DPW) Tree Division Update (Tim)*

- Tree Bylaw activity -- Tree Plans received:
 - 88 Coolidge Rd. Lot under jurisdiction of Conservation Commission got approved to build a house - they submitted a Tree Plan showing removal of two Protected Trees - a 25" Scarlet Oak and large American Elm; paid over \$14,000 to Trees Please fund.
 - 83 Palmer St., no Protected Tree removals
 - 31 Lantern Lane. The developer hired a professional to consult on trees and develop a tree plan. 13 trees to be protected, No Protected Tree removals.
 - 7 Crosby St. No protected trees will be removed. In addition, 4 private trees and 1 street tree will be protected
- Tree hearing(s) - Tree Warden had hearing on April 12, 2022 for removal of healthy 16" honey locust street tree at 261 Hillside. Due to objections received at and before hearing, he denied application.
- Tree health/management news. Nothing discussed
- Spring tree planting - Spring planting has started. 150 trees to be planted.
 - Sites selected for various reasons: to fulfill resident requests, to mitigate heat islands, to plant in the vicinity of Article 16 tree removals, to plant within "tree equity" [Environmental Justice] areas pursuant to "Tree Equity Map" provided by co-chair Eliza Burden.
 - Average tree DBH 1.5".
 - Tree species being planted. Large: hackberry, tulip, and london plane; Medium: hardy rubber tree (*Eucommia ulmoides*, 45 ft. tall / 45 ft. wide at maturity, non-native), honey locust, and Green Spire linden; Small: Robin Hill serviceberry, Ivory Silk tree lilac, Sargent cherry, and maackia.
 - Other Town Projects. Broadway Plaza - Trees will be planted to replace several removed, plan has changed several times, looks like new trees to be planted will be up to 5" DBH and will be planted in 4' x 6' planting wells. Question as to whether there was a watering plan in the contract for the project per the policy adopted by the Select Board on 9/24/18 that a watering plan shall be included in all town contracts involving planting of trees. Steve will check with Dominic Lanzillotti in the Purchasing Department.
- **Arbor Day April 29** - Tim will plant 3 evergreen trees at McClennan Park in the open area along Summer Street next to the parking lot to replace three evergreens that were lost there a few years ago. Children will not be involved due to the ongoing pandemic. It might be a good occasion for photos to highlight trees and the work of the Tree Warden and Tree Committee in town.
- Tim announced the hiring of a new Tree Climber, which was welcome news to the committee because the Tree Department has been short-handed and because the new employee is a woman, the first female

Tree Climber in the Tree Department. She has several years' training and experience doing tree work, including operating the required heavy equipment.

3. *Publicity/Community Outreach*

- Outreach to Town orgs. (ARB, Conservation Commission, Open Space Comm., Park & Recreation Commission, School Comm., ZBA) and updates on projects/policy involving trees (Eliza, Keith, Mara, Steve, Susan)
- Keith reported that he and Mara will meet with Arlington's new superintendent to discuss their ideas of planting trees and landscape design at each of the town's 10 schools.
- Susan said she has an idea that she wants to pursue with town boards where the town would look to acquire small pieces of land from projects and make them into public green spaces, using the example of the town getting an affordable unit in a multiunit development in exchange for certain concessions by the town
- Mary Ellen reported that she and Eliza met with David Morgan, the town's new environmental planner and conservation agent and they discussed similar ideas - they have placed the conversation in the Trees Please Google doc in Dropbox. He wants to coordinate on some projects with the Tree Committee, such as creating green space in the Leader Bank Plaza across from the High School, mitigating heat islands, and ordinances regarding native plants.
- Susan also reported that at the Town Manager's Gas Leaks Task Force meeting today (Susan represents the ATC on the Task Force), they discussed the disconnect among the several town boards and committees that are involved with environmental issues, including Tree Committee, Conservation Commission, Planning Board, Open Space Committee, Clean Energy Future Committee, Zero Waste Committee and planning documents such as the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Plan and the Net Zero Plan - and even the Housing Production Plan. To address the disconnect, the Town Manager suggested forming the Climate Action Coordinating Council with representatives from all these groups, coordinated by the town's Sustainability Manager or the Environmental Planner.
- Keith and Steve, who regularly attend the ARB and ZBA meetings on behalf of the Tree Committee agreed with the concern that a lack of communication and coordination of the town boards and committees let opportunities for environmental improvement get away, citing as an example that Mill Brook, which runs through the center of town, is a factor in several projects in town, yet is an "uncovered issue" in town, that is there does not appear to be a discussion, vision or strategy for preserving the waterbody in its entirety as a valued public resource.
- Mary Ellen, Susan, Ed, Keith and Steve will meet to discuss warrant articles for the Annual Town Meeting starting April 25 that may impact trees.
- Mary Ellen reported on the first meeting of a regional tree committee formed to share ideas and information that she and Eliza attended recently. She advises that it will be valuable for networking and, therefore, we should send a representative to each meeting. The next meeting is on April 27 at 7 pm on Zoom.
- Adopt-A-Tree program – Former GIS Coordinator, Adam Kurowski, left information for how to put adopt a tree information on the tree map. Steve will volunteer to do this. It is time to increase efforts to inform residents of this program. In discussion, it became clear that the Tree Dept. outreach to residents when they plant a tree nearby and ask that residents water the tree, should be coordinated with the Adopt-a-Tree program, which it currently is not, and those locations do not appear on the tree map as having been adopted. The committee agreed this should be coordinated. Susan suggested putting a QR code on the 2 doorhangers and tag on the water bag that the Tree Dept. places and that QR code would take anyone to the Tree Committee website where they could officially adopt the tree.

4. *Subcommittee re: Expanding Tree Planting in Town Update*

- Community Canopy Program for 2022 (Eliza, Keith, Mary Ellen) - Keith ordered 68 trees (red buds, flowering dogwoods, pin oaks (swamp oak). 27 so far have been sold. Eliza is advertising on Facebook, Instagram and Google Groups. We are using the old version of the agreement with the property owner (Doug Heim is working on final agreement). Re possible planting of trees at Winslow Towers - TBD.

- Back of Sidewalk (MGL Ch. 87) Program (Eliza) - Agreement with property owner needs to be finalized to start the program (Doug Heim is working on this)
- Planning Dept/Environmental Planner outreach (Eliza, Mary Ellen) See discussion in Par. 3 above.
- Tree Preservation and Protection Bylaw Amendment /Materials preparation and presentation at TM (Article 10 on warrant) - Mary Ellen and Susan are working on the presentation for Town Meeting (Article 10), which will be recorded ahead of time.

5. *New Business*

- Limbing up of trees in Town and at Reservoir - Any tree on public property that needs pruning or other tree management can be reported to the Tree Dept. via the Request/Answer Center, whether it is a street tree, or in a park.
- Tree Committee members will try to attend events coming up, that is (1) Think Spring event in Arlington Heights, May 7th, 9 AM - 1 PM; Window Painting w/ Eco theme; must register (they are looking for ATC member to participate); (2) Biodiversity Summit April 26 - Charlotte Milan ATC Invitation to Arlington BioDiversity Summit on April 26 (Part 1); invasive plant removal (May 7) (Part 2); [dinner and brainstorm](#) (May 17)
- Planting multiple trees in Franklin, Warren Street area - resident reached out through town web site to request replacement street trees where trees were removed over the years. Tim examined each location and for the ones possible to plant he put in the planting queue. He is also going to talk with DPW about some of the tree sites that have been paved over and request that tree wells be reestablished in those locations.

• Meeting adjourned at 9:40 pm

Next Meeting: May 11, 2022