



Arlington Tree Committee Meeting Notes

Date: Wednesday, August 10, 2022 **Time:** 7:30 PM

Location: Meeting will be conducted remotely, via Zoom application

Attendees: Tim Lecuire, Steve Moore, Mary Ellen Aronow, Ed Trembley, Susan Stamps, Keith Schnebly.
Visitors: Mike Gildesgame, Jo Anne Preston

1. *Approve Regular Meeting Minutes*
 - July ATC Minutes – Approved unanimously
2. *Department of Public Works (DPW) Tree Division Update (Tim)*
 - Tree Bylaw activity – projects
 - 68 Brantwood. Contractor owns; no removals, 4 Norway maples to be protected. Oak tree deemed unhealthy by arborist. Eliza followed up with owner to encourage retaining the tree as important to neighborhood tree canopy. Also came up in ZBA.
 - 116 Columbia Rd (Avatar). No qualifying trees to be removed. 4 in setback to be protected.
 - 74-78 Oak Hill Dr (David Dolan) - No qualifying trees to be removed. Number of trees in setback to be protected. Side by side lots; 2 houses to be developed
 - 32 Ridge St. (Avatar) - No qualifying trees to be removed. 10 in setback to be protected
 - Tree hearing(s) – No tree hearings to date
 - Tree health/management news
 - SLF (Spotted Lantern Fly) identified in Springfield MA. Not sure if there is a biological control.
 - EAB -- Mike asked question about treating EAB over two year period.
 - North East Tree Service won bid for treatment. 3 year contract. Triazim (Neem oli) from Ontario, CA. Some supply issues. 1000 Ash Trees. 6000 inch dbh (of all trees with less than 40% die back. Needed to be complete by mid-Sept. If not complete then finish off next June.
 - Also Commonw of MA releasing 3 species of wasp that lay eggs in EAB and kill the EAB
 - Drought – lost 55-60 saplings during this summer
 - Microburst on Sunday night resulted in loss of 15-20 trees, mostly on Medford side. Spilled over into Bishop School on Stowcroft Rd. Mostly Norway Maples going down.
 - Summer watering
 - No summer help. Not able to fill and or retain. Staff in DPW reduced
 - Need additional ways to water – Jo Anne volunteering to help – Keith to form subcommittee – Ed / Steve / Susan
 - Ideas:
 - Cambridge bicycle brigade – uses fire hydrants
 - Run a town wide contest to get people to design a watering system – maybe for each community
 - Identify water sources – 33 Ryder St
 - Rainbarrels at Menotomy Manor used as alternate water source
 - High School students need 40 hours community service – High School student doing Chestnut Manor. Advertise with High School
 - Steve volunteered as liaison to Green Team
 - Ed, Keith and Steve using Ed's truck and assembly
 - Auxiliary watering team
 - DPW uses a flatbed truck with water tank trailer by tree crew. Another one at Res (by contractor?)
 - Other Town projects (Broadway Plaza, etc)
 - Broadway Plaza – contractor watering trees
 - Alberta Spruce already dead – contractor
 - Tim watering trees nearby

3. *Publicity/Community Outreach*

- Outreach to Town orgs. (ARB, Conservation Comm, Open Space Comm., Park & Rec Commission, School Comm., ZBA, etc.) and updates on projects/policy involving trees
 - ARB – meeting in person so harder to get to the meetings – need hybrid model – will start in Sept
 - ConComm meeting on Zoom
- Regional Tree Committee Meeting (Mary Ellen). Rpt from recent mtg
 - Recent meeting focused on tree bylaws. Second meeting on 13th Sept
 - Sharing Google docs
- Adopt-A-Tree program. Additional publicity: Green Team, AHS students, etc
- Planting at Thompson – Dr Liz Homan responded and added the idea of an irrigation system to ensure watering. Mara revising proposal

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

- Community Canopy Program in Fall; target businesses in hot zones
- Addit'l AHA planting: Winslow Towers, Menotomy Manor, Cusack Terrace
- Watering new trees at schools (Brackett, Thompson, Ottoson, Gibbs)
- Back of Sidewalk (MGL Ch. 87) Program

5. *New Business*

- Town Day (9/17/2022) – Steve got the application submitted; review google sheet with supplies/sign up
- Bike Path – threatening the large trees on the Mystic River. [Mystic River to Minuteman Path — Mystic River Watershed Association](#)
- Library presentation. Susan to do a presentation to Friends of Robbins Library – sometime in late September. Get ACMI to come film
- Arboretum accreditation idea (Town Hall Garden, Menotomy Rocks Park). No discussion
- Fall Community Canopy – early November(?) – Keith to check in with Nat
- Hills Hill
 - Hills Hill – Susan did a site walk. Important oak forest there. Park & Rec exploring building mountain bike course. Lots of discussion about not wanting this work to cause tree removals. Park and Rec to come up with a lower impact plan
- Renovation around trees: education (ie. 38 Gray Street)
 - Contractor (Best Boston Development /Realtor (Matthew U). Because the bylaw did not apply to a this “renovation,” the bylaw was not triggered. The developer cleared the property, ~~eliminating the tree canopy~~. The property was very overgrown but the stumps suggest large trees were removed from lot.
 - Building Inspector willing to add a step to permitting process that asks about trees coming down and points them to the Tree Warden or to Tree Committee – Eliza has volunteered. Susan and Eliza and MEA to meet with Mike Ciampa
 - Does Good Neighbor Agreement cover Tree Removal? Can we work to get it included?
- Can Tree Committee get ability to spend money on expenses and purchases
- Davy Levy (sp) idea for increasing the forest / (micro forests) in back yards.
- Landscape architect against tree bags – plastic harm trunk (increases rot) and gathering space for bugs – in a perfect world we would not need the bags and have a well. Very hard to do in a public right of way. Ball and burlap can have bags on stake.

Comment [EB1]:

Meeting Adjourned: 9:32 pm

Next Meeting: September 14, 2022