



Arlington Tree Committee Minutes

Date: Weds January 11, 2023 **Time:** 7:30 PM

Location: Meeting was conducted via hybrid meeting process both in person and remotely, via Zoom application:

The in-person meeting was in Arlington Town Hall Annex, 2nd floor conference room.

Attendance: In Room Steve Moore, Keith Schnebly, Mara Vatz, Mary Ellen Aronow; Zoom: Tree Warden Tim Lecuivre, Eliza Burden, Ed Trembley, Susan Stamps. Guests: Beth Melofchick, Ellen Cohen, Gary Goldsmith, Len Diggins (Select Board), Mike Gildesgame (Conservation Commission)

1. *Approve Meeting Minutes*

- October 19, November and December ATC Minutes - APPROVED

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

- Tree Bylaw activity. The amendments to the Art 16 Tree Pres Bylaw went into effect Jan 1, 2023. The 2 following projects were submitted prior to Jan 1:
 - 1416 Edith St (Builder Albert Azatyantz). Abuts conservation land. No trees to be removed but they will be protecting a public street tree - 28" Ash tree.
 - 33 Rhinecliff St (Builder: Avatar). A previously submitted tree plan at this property was updated to accommodate a larger build plan, which will remove 2 additional trees in the setback: 15" Norway Spruce and a 14" Norway Maple. Fee of \$10,875 was paid to Trees Please.
- Tree hearing(s) – None
- Involvement with town projects. Safe Routes to School for Stratton. Tree Warden aware of MDOT project and had walked the site to identify unhealthy and healthy street trees. If healthy trees are to be removed, a public tree hearing will be required. **Action:** *Susan will see if comments made at public input session were implemented.*
- Tree Watering. **Action:** *Steve to review Request/Answer center sign up form to ensure requesters understand that they commit to watering and should find someone to assume watering duties if on vacation.*

3. *Publicity/Community Outreach*

- Outreach to Planning Dept – Discussion of need for broader townwide discussion (not just Tree Committee) re: eco-planning (trees, streetscapes, urban heat island mitigation, green infrastructure)
- ATC Outreach to Town orgs. (ARB, ConComm, Open Space, Park & Rec, School Comm., ZBA, Select Board, etc.) and updates on projects/policy involving trees
 - ConComm's Wetland Regulations are in draft form and were shared with ATC on Dec 12. ConComm includes replanting as a mitigation option. **Action:** *Mary Ellen and Eliza will assemble comments and provide feedback to David Morgan*
 - ARB Susan had discussions with Gene Benson of ARB and Steve Revilak of MBTA Working Group to bring up importance of trees in development projects.
 - Park/Rec: Susan also attended meeting of Park & Rec to discuss artificial turf; Town Manager wants moratorium on artificial turf in town during his tenure
 - ZBA: Steve attended meetings re: projects at 1021 Mass Ave and 10 Sunnyside
 - Inspectional Services: Eliza corresponded w Mike Ciampa to discuss private tree canopy concerns and how we can accomplish more effective tree education through the building permit process, encouraging applicants to follow the intent of the Bylaw which is to preserve tree canopy and consult with a certified arborist when planning a project and/or when tree issues arise. She emailed Inspectional Services to request adding additional links to the Insp Services: add links to "Protecting Trees during Construction," "Good Neighbor Agreement," list of certified Arborists doing work in Arlington, and a link to "Chap 87 State Law re: Public Tree Protection. Susan requested that we find out if the affidavit (mentioned in the

2022 Tree Bylaw amendment) has been added to the Insp Services documents. **Action:** *Tim will discuss with Mike Ciampa and can followup with Joan Roman to update website.*

4. *Art. 16 Tree Bylaw - Possible Updates.* Following December ATC discussion about possible amendments, the ATC co-chairs consulted and recommend that we not move ahead with any amendments to Tree Bylaw this year
5. *Arlington Tree Mgmt Plan Update*
 - The Selectboard suggested that we update our Mgmt Plan since it is 5 years old. A subgroup of Keith, Mara, MEA, Susan, and Eliza was formed. Tim commented that great progress is being made on our achieving goals identified in the 2018 management plan, including pruning catchup, tree species diversification, 30/20/10 goal, EAB treatment w biological agent (half of total # of ash trees per year), 1980 peak canopy. Also a discussion of whether our tree canopy should be measured in terms of % canopy rather than number of trees. **Action:** *Group will review centralized doc of ideas and meet before next meeting to discuss what kind of a plan could be developed and explore what other companies might be used as consultants (e.g. Planit Geo).*
6. *Watering Trees in Town Update –*
 - Keith met with AHS student to present a certificate for her vital efforts watering trees at Chestnut Manor through this summer's drought. This drew lots of attention from the AHS administration. A photo of Keith and the student was posted to IG and FB.
 - Eliza also has had communication with AHS' SAVE club. Additional students may be interested in our Adopt-A-Tree program; Briefly discussed ways to increase student involvement (AHS and AC) in the spring by promoting more widely for community service hours. **Action:** *follow up with our AHS and AC contacts to notify students about Community Canopy and Adopt-a-Tree programs as they get going in spring.*
7. *Expanded Tree Planting in Town Update*
 - Community Canopy program. Continue in spring 2023 using Trees Please funds. Aiming for 50-60 trees to sell. Discussion of a possible Arbor Day Pop up tree event on Mass Ave. Combine with Tree Canopy Planting Day! Increase tree visibility. Include students. Partner w a business and Chamber of Commerce? **Action:** *subgroup will meet to discuss this year's program and how to include high school students to encourage involvement and visibility for the program.*
 - Back of Sidewalk "Setback" planting efforts. Many municipalities already have adopted this approach; DCR has been advocating for this approach. **Action:** *Susan corresponded with Doug Heim to finalize a document that allows for this*
8. *New Business*
 - Arlington (along with other neighboring towns) has received a grant for developing a sustainable landscape handbook such as the one Concord MA has developed
 - Trees Watertown sent an email looking for a speaker for a March program
 - Need to consider ways of updating website and to drive more traffic to the website, we should add more content through the blog by coordinating efforts with IG and Facebook posts.

Next Meeting: February 8, 2022

Meeting Adjourned: 9:10