



Arlington Tree Committee Minutes

Date: Weds February 8, 2023

Time: 7:30 PM

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

In person meeting was in Arlington Town Hall Annex, second floor conference room.

In attendance in room: Steve Moore, Keith Schnebly, Mary Ellen Aronow. **Online:** Eliza Burden, Susan Stamps, Ed Trembly, and others: Tree Warden Tim Lecuire, Beth Melofchick and ConComm Rep Mike Gildesgame.

1. *Approve Regular Meeting Minutes*
 - January ATC Minutes (Approved)
2. *Department of Public Works (DPW) Tree Division Update (Tim) –*
 - General info: Town is busy pruning trees, hanging banners, and snow removal/sand laying. Backlog of removals/pruning being worked down. No significant tree damage from storms yet this winter. Town is still advertising for additional Tree Division staff (entry-level). Job posting is on town website.
 - Tree Bylaw activity: None
 - Tree Hearings: None
 - Town projects; None
 - Spring planting plans: 150 street trees being ordered. Additional trees for bylaw removals will be planted.
 - Discussion re: homeowners to accept new trees near where Article 16 trees were removed – educate the residents with a different ‘door hanger’ which says “Your neighborhood lost tree canopy.....” to help with acceptance of new tree(s). A “back of sidewalk planting program” could help achieve this. Still no input from Town Counsel on moving ahead with this program
 - Discussion about how to better promote our tree planting efforts: we use social media but how do we reach others now that we don’t have the Arl Advocate? Ideas: Town notifications, through students at schools, Green Teams, possibility of Advertising via banners on town-owned buildings or in prominent locations in town. Poss include a QR code. Discussion about coming up with catchy slogans: such as “Go nuts, let’s plant Oak trees”
 - Seek help from arbor day and other national organizations
 - Use Green Teams at schools to help come up with banners and slogans
3. *Publicity/Community Outreach*
 - ATC Outreach to Town orgs. and departments (Planning dept, ARB, ConComm, Open Space, Rec, School Comm., ZBA, Select Board, etc.)
 - ZBA:
 - 1021-1025: ATC reiterated concerns to setback size given the location on MA Ave (heat island, no tree strip to plant town trees).
 - Inspectional Services plans to update website soon and will include our recs.
 - MBTA working Group (Susan) – Steve, Susan and Mary Ellen attended the first working group. Lexington is also planning for MBTA communities zoning and has progressed to having a proposed overlay: nuanced in their offerings: ie. add an extra floor if you add commercial on ground floor.
 - Planning Dept outreach – co-chairs will reach out to David Morgan and/or Claire Ricker
4. *Tree Mgmt. Plan update - (subcommittee). This has been put on hold so that we can communicate with Planning Dept to learn about efforts to come up with a more comprehensive Ecology Plan for Arlington that incorporates tree plantings especially in our heat island areas. **Action:** Mary Ellen and Eliza will reach out to planning Dept to try to set up a meeting*

5. *Watering Trees in Town*

- Adopt-A-Tree program: increase numbers of adopters
 - i. reach out to schools (green teams), SAVE club at AHS, teachers at AHS and Arlington Catholic and PTOs. Establish liaisons at these orgs that can help us recruit more students
 - ii. Make sure ATC is included as Community Service hours option at AHS (Keith communicate with Deans, MEA to find out AHS volunteer site leader
 - iii. Chestnut Manor trees will be watered again by AHS student Chloe.

Action: *Steve will communicate with Rachel Oliveri to make certain we get the word out through her upcoming communications with parents and PTOs and even through her summer camp programs. Keith will communicate with High School and AHS Dean and perhaps ask a student to be a liaison*

6. *Expanding Tree Planting in Town Update*

- Community Canopy spring update. Keith has communicated with New England Nurseries, received a list of potential tree species that we have reviewed and will follow up
- Arbor Day Pop up. No discussion
- Back of Sidewalk planting program is a priority to expand tree planting possibilities, allowing for increased tree canopy without additional work for DPW

7. *New Business*

- ATC Website enhancements. Not discussed
- Discussion of the use of pervious pavement with ConCom rep. ConCom looks at it on a case-by-case basis to mitigate flood storage; Ed noted that pervious pavement isn't friendly to snow plow.
- Discussion of pilot stormwater tree planting projects in E Arl. Through the collaboration of Stormwater Engineer and Tree Warden. Tim notes we could educate residents on these new planting techniques.
Action: *Tim will send us images and info so we can promote/educate public.*
- Mary Ellen encouraged attendees to review the Ecology Plan that Atlanta now has in place "AtlantaCityDesign.Nature":
[:https://www.atlantaga.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/49083/637426021309200000](https://www.atlantaga.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/49083/637426021309200000)
- Member renewals: Ed Trembly, Eliza Burden, Mary Ellen Aronow, Mara Vatz, Susan Stamps will renew for an additional 3 years. **Action:** *Mary Ellen will notify the town and make sure info on the website is up to date.*

Next Meeting: March 8, 2023

Adjourn 9:12pm