



## Arlington Tree Committee Minutes

**Date:** Weds March 8, 2023 **Time:** 7:30 PM

**Location:** Meeting was conducted via **hybrid meeting** process both in person and remotely, via Zoom application:  
[ATC Monthly Meeting Zoom Link](#)

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

Attendees: Susan Stamps, Eliza Burden Mary Ellen Aronow, Mara Vatz, Ed Trembly, Keith Schnebly, Steve Moore; Tree Warden Tim Lecuire, and ConComm Liaison Mike Gildesgame

### 1. *Approve February Meeting Minutes*

- Approved pending spelling correction

### 2. *Membership and Roles/Responsibilities*

- Eliza thanked members who recently renewed their memberships to the ATC: Susan, Keith, Eliza, Mary Ellen and Mara. Will be reappointed at 3/13 Select Board meeting.
- Discussion of how to spread work over membership by having members commit to a “role” as defined in a document on Dropbox that was forwarded to members in advance of meeting. Roles include: 2 co chairs, recording secretary, website editor, publication coordinator, community canopy coordinator, adopt-a -tree coordinator, town day coordinator. And liaisons with other boards / commissions.
- Co-chairs recommend that we seek new members committed to working collaboratively to further our mission and to spread the workload. Members will reach back out to folks that have expressed interest. Eliza will be contacting Joan Roman to advertise openings. Committee will consider Town DEI goals.
- A motion was made to formalize an annual election of chairs (and other officer roles) at our March meeting. A vote was taken and it was APPROVED that the ATC will hold an annual election of officers—two co-chairs and a recording secretary—during the first meeting of the month of March. (Steve, Ed, Eliza, Leith, Mary Ellen, Mara, Susan.)
- Eliza asked to step down as co-Chair. Mary Ellen and Keith were nominated as Co-chairs and elected by a unanimous vote: Susan, Mara, Keith, Steve, Mary Ellen, Ed, Eliza.
- Mara was nominated and elected as Recording Secretary by a unanimous vote: Eliza, Mary Ellen, Keith, Susan Mara, Ed, Steve.

### 3. *Department of Public Works (DPW) Tree Division Update (Tim) –*

- Pruning, removals are happening in between snow/salt applications/banner hanging. Backlog of pruning/removals is almost caught up.
- Tree Bylaw activity. No activity reported.
  - Tim suggested we come up with an updated packet with refreshed materials. Mary Ellen noted that since we will be having landscape architects and certified arborists use this info (as part of the most recent bylaw amendment), this could be an opportunity for us to add some material to ensure all material is current and relevant. **ACTION ITEM:** *Steve will check with Inspectional Services as well as the Town website – make sure Article 16 is updated with 2022 new language. Perhaps add some suggestion to landscape architect (to consider adding back canopy, plant natives, keep screening between neighbors, protect critical root zone of neighboring trees)*
- Tree hearing(s) – none to date.
- Involvement with Town projects involving trees: Tim brought up the topic of the Appleton St. improvements being considered. The planning department is working with engineering to alter bike lanes on Mass Ave (Trader Joes through Mirak) which may impact street trees. Public input on this is on March 15<sup>th</sup> for the Appleton intersection. **ACTION ITEM:** *write /speak up on the removal of those public street trees and ensure new tree planting is being considered in these street improvements to reduce solar glare and mitigate heat island effect in this area. Public input session on March 15.*
- Spring tree order: Tim ordered 150 trees. Species include 3 large, 3 medium, 4 small. **ACTION ITEM:** *Tim will send out species to ATC and ConComm.*

- Watering: Dan Warren , Mike R should be brought into the discussion about what staff, hours, etc. can be brought on to help with the watering. **ACTION:** *contact Mike/Dan for suggestions on summer help for watering and consider offering part-time work as well as full time.*
- Planting in Article 16 neighborhoods: Eliza shared that the assessor's office provides neighboring addresses when the Good Neighbor Agreement is triggered for a project (so that they can notify neighbors of work). She suggested that this method could be used to notify neighbors about tree availability when trees in their neighborhood have been lost and have triggered the Bylaw replanting clause. Tim suggested our door hanger could be updated and sent to these neighbors to notify them. **ACTION:** *contact Assessor's office and get addresses when Art 16 project occurs; update door hanger*

#### 4. *Expanded tree planting*

- Community Canopy Program and Arbor Day Pop Up: New England Nurseries: Keith presented tree species that Nat at NE Nurseries provided. He said that this year might cost \$10,560 for 60 trees but with payments of \$6460 back to Trees Please Fund.
- There was discussion of a possible Arbor day tree planting. Visitor suggested this be recorded by ACMI or by an attendee. **ACTION:** *Tree Warden will work with ATC about timing of a tree planting*
- Back of Sidewalk tree program – **ACTION:** *Mary Ellen will discuss with Mike R and try to get the request for this program to come from the DPW.*

#### 5. *Publicity/Community Outreach*

- ATC Outreach to Town orgs. and departments
  - ARB: 200 block of Mass Ave will have trees planted in front. Steve suggested irrigation. They cannot plant trees on the other side of the road, due to the sidewalk/wires). Since this property falls under the new zoning law that if a tree cannot be planted every 25 feet, they will pay into the Trees Please fund.
  - Promoting meeting re: the MBTA Communities on March 9, 7pm via Zoom. **ACTION:** *Eliza will advertise on social media; MEA will send out via Google Groups.*
  - Mary Ellen and Eliza met with David Morgan last week to encourage collaboration in making tree planting, streetscapes and heat mitigation a priority in all Development projects in town.
- Student group outreach. Not discussed
- Tree education banner campaign/slogans. Not discussed

#### *New Business*

- *PlanIT Geo – MEA and Susan and are exploring a tree canopy assessment with this firm. Will discuss more at next meeting*

**Next Meeting:** April 12, 2023

Adjourn 9:20 pm