



Arlington Tree Committee Minutes

Date: Wednesday, April 12, 2023 **Time:** 7:30 PM – 9:00 PM

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

Conducted via hybrid meeting, via Zoom application: [ATC Monthly Meeting Zoom Link](#)

Attending: Eliza Burden, Susan Stamps, Mary Ellen Aronow, Keith Schnebly, Steve Moore, Mara Vatz.

Others: Tree Warden Tim Lecuire and Mike Gildesgame (Conservation Commission)

1. Review Agenda & Meeting Norms – 7:30 – 10 minutes
 - Timing – Gather / Start – Sections – content, then questions, commentary – Time Keeping
 - Sound considerations – Room v Remote
 - Actions / Decisions Recorded – Roles and Responsibilities
 - Parking Lot / Subcommittees
 - Guests

Keith explained some of our updated procedures and meeting norms.

2. Action Items & Minutes – 7:40 – 5 minutes

Not enough time today to go through all action items. Susan requests to make it printable, shorten some of the descriptions, add a subject column so we can sort by topic, add title so we can refer to this document.

3. Approve Prior Meeting Minutes – 7:45 - 5 minutes

Eliza motions to approve edited minutes, Steve seconds the motion. Approved.

4. Department of Public Works (DPW) Tree Division Update (Tim) – 7:50 10 mins +15 mins discussion

- Tree Bylaw activity–no new tree plans. Some people called with questions about new bylaw amendments as of Jan 1. Builders now have to find landscape professionals or certified arborists to consult with and they are not accustomed to that; it's a transitional period.
- Tree hearings–no tree hearings to date. Still trying to get an update on Hillside /George St honey locust.
- Town projects involving trees–two large projects:
 - 1021-1024 Mass Ave, -- 40B project near Brattle St.
 - 10 Sunnyside Ave. -- 40B project near Broadway. Looked into Sunnyside Ave, it's complete 40B redevelopment, so if the builders are open to tree planting/garden/open space, that would be welcoming to that neighborhood.
- Spring tree order/planting. Tim placed the order for bare root trees. Caught by surprise, March 30, NE Nurseries emailed to say the 150 bare roots would come in April 4. Scrambled from winter mode to spring mode. The bare root trees were delivered to 33 Ryder street hydro-gel zipped the roots. Got door hangers out. Received about 6 refusals, no specific reasons. Crew started planting on Monday April 10, and as of Wednesday April 12, 35 trees have been planted.

- Watering. Our crew is watering as they plant. DPW is still working on finding a replacement truck for Tim (his failed) until they figure out when they can order the all electric Ford Lightning vehicle (back order at factory). Overtime will be offered for the crew to water after hours.
 - Eliza asked if there has been any advertising for summer interns. If so, she requested that it be forwarded to ATC so we can help advertise through social media. **Action: Tim will reach out to HR and ask them.**
 - Eliza mentioned that the Arl Hist Society (owners of Jason Russell House), have large white pines that they feel are a danger to the structure. Have spoken to one arborist and will get a second opinion. They are trying to be proactive because they know trees are important in town. Want to get us involved in the discussion before removals happen. It's possible that they could be a candidate for a back of sidewalk tree planting since they are such a prominent location in town. There was discussion about the possibility of removing some but not all of the trees, OR getting new trees started before removals. Perhaps they could be a Community Canopy recipient. **Action: Eliza will be the liaison on this project**
 - Mary Ellen: Eversource was pruning, ATC received a complaint about a very substantial pruning. Letter said they worked closely with town officials. Tim explained that Alex Roach (Eversource) is certified arborist, so we discussed the circuit pruning. We met last year and did a circuit. We didn't go through the most recent circuit, so they did a very light pruning. Tim believes they are generally following procedure, but some of our trees are in the wrong place but we have changed our approach to planting trees under wires by selecting only smaller species
 - Susan: Speak for the Trees is looking for a summer associate for \$25/hour, will be provided with a watering truck so they can water trees planted by the non-profit. It's an interesting approach. Is there a non-profit we could talk into doing this, and we pay out of trees please funds. **Action: Keith will follow up with Susan on this idea.**
5. Expanded tree planting – 8:15 – 10 minutes + 5 mins discussion
- Community Canopy Program. We launched advertising, we had to reduce amount of trees we purchased because we hit the \$10K ceiling from purchase dept. next year we have to get 3 quotes, then we'll be allowed to go over \$10K. We will buy 52. We've sold about half so far. The little trees are going faster than big ones (elm and red oak). Cherokee brave (pink dogwood) is the most popular; White dogwoods are going last. Redbuds are selling—people like pink. Delivery estimated on Arbor Day. **Action: Steve: Outreach to Rachel Olivieri (sustainability coordinator for APS) to try to get community canopy plantings at the schools would be great.** Mass plantings would be great. we have 17 shade trees to place. Mary Ellen: we should try to get some business to participate as well. **Action: Eliza will reach out to Mirak and DCF. Action: Steve will forward poll on apartment buildings database to Susan and Keith so we can follow-up with apartment buildings**
 - Arbor Day Pop Up concept. Not enough time to pull it together this year.
 - Arbor Day Tree Planting. Planting will occur at Robbins library, where we had done two planter plantings several years ago. One didn't make it, the other is thriving. We plan to remove the one that's thriving and replant it in a lawn area, and then replace the two planter ones with two matching stewartia in 15-gallon containers. We'll do it on the Thursday morning before the library opens. April 27. The Tree Division will do some prep the day before, then set up at 8am, have a discussion, 9am have words about Arbor Day in general. Tim will bring props. **Action: Eliza will post about arbor day planting on IG and FB.**
 - Susan asked which takes priority—planting at heat islands or fulfilling requests? Tim says we need to plant where there are requests first, and that any change to policy would need to go through DPW.
6. Publicity/Community Outreach - 8:30 – 10 minutes + 5 minutes discussion
- Committees: ARB / ZBA / Con Comm
 - 1021 - 1024 Mass Ave 40B ZBA review finishing up. Public hearing will close in a week or so.

- 10 Sunnyside Ave. 40B ZBA review is starting next week.
- Town Departments: Planning / Legal. Steve: Looked at what is available at building department—it is posted with changes. but a lot of the old packets have outdated information. Digital online version is updated. **Action: Steve will have conversation with Building Dept to get the hard copies updated, and to fix the broken links on digital version.**
- Susan; on May 2 in Town Hall auditorium, ConComm will have public forum with Park and Rec on artificial turf. ****Note: let's talk about artificial turf next meeting.**
- New Members

7. New Business – 8:45 – 10 minutes

- Yearly Calendar – for next meeting – early item
- Roles and Responsibilities. We need to revisit this document so that we can keep up with the meetings we are assigned to go to.

8. Review New Actions – 8:55 – 5 minutes

Action: Keith – put new members on new agenda, figure out role with ConComm

Action: Eliza will post about recruiting new members on social media

Action: Eliza, EcoFest – advertise Tree Canopy program through that.

Next Meeting: May 10, 2023

Adjourn 9:00 pm