



Arlington Tree Committee Minutes

Date: Wednesday, June 14, 2023 **Time:** 7:30 PM – 9:00 PM

Location: Conducted via Zoom

[ATC Monthly Meeting Zoom Link](#)

In attendance: Keith Schnebly, Mary Ellen Aronow, Susan Stamps, Eliza Burden, Steve Moore, Mara Vatz, Ed Tremblay, Tree Warden Tim Lecuivre.

Visitors: Barbara Thornton, Mike Gildesgame, Serena Bray

1. Review Agenda & Introduce Guests: Mike Gildesgame is our representative from ConComm, Barbara Thornton was in attendance to discuss tree planting at the water tower, and Serena Bray joined later in the meeting to discuss private tree protection under the Bylaw at 24 Mystic Lake Drive.
2. Action Items & Minutes
 - We heard an update about separating the tree construction guidelines from the larger packet that builders get. There are still updates that need to be made to the town website so people can access the construction guidelines as a separate document. Susan pointed out that the latest version of the Bylaw is not yet online. **Susan will follow up with Joan Roman to make sure the construction guidelines get separated.**
 - **Susan and Mary Ellen will meet to discuss progress on the back of sidewalk planting program.**
 - Tim is still working with Stormwater Engineer Wayne Chouinard on stormwater catchment/tree planting collaborations. He is awaiting plans from Wayne to share with the ATC that demonstrate the system.
3. Department of Public Works (DPW) Tree Division Update (Tim)
 - The town has crews and an outside contractor pruning, removing trees, and stump grinding. The new budget includes funds to purchase a new stump grinder.
 - Summer Tree interns are watering with the watering truck.
 - Tree Bylaw Activity: New Bylaw announcements from Tim are on hold at the moment as DPW moves offices—the files are currently packed.
 - 24 Mystic Lake Drive: John Carney is the builder on a demo/rebuild. There is neighborhood concern for the protection of trees, especially one large tree that abuts the property. Some tree protection has gone up and neighbors have been notified of the demo, but so far no permits have been pulled and no tree plan has been submitted. **Keith will email John Carney to let him know neighbors have reached out to the Tree Committee and to generally ask about tree protection.**
 - **Susan will talk to Mike Ciampa about getting the affidavit on the building permit application**
 - Tree Hearings: None to date. No update on Hillside Ave/George St.
4. MyRWA Grant proposal: Keith shared the grant proposal he (along with MyWRA) put together for a matching grant from Federal Inflation Reduction Act. MyRWA is pursuing a grant for 11 MyRWA municipalities. Keith pulled together relevant data for Arlington.

5. Tree-related interactions with town:

- ARB: Susan attended the MBTA communities zoning planning which was very well attended. She is working with the Equitable Arlington group (housing advocates) to advocate for environmental consideration as we increase housing density along the Mass Ave corridor.
- ZBA: 1021 Mass Ave draft decision is being written. 10 Sunnyside Ave. work has begun, landscape plan was presented recently, and Steve suggested an irrigation plan for all trees including street trees, as well as structural soil.

6. Publicity/Community Outreach

- Arlington Heights Spring Festival June 10: Very productive, felt like Town Day but better timing for trees in spring because people are focused on trees. Got a lot of adopt-a-tree interest, talked to students about community service opportunities.
- Adopt-A-Tree: So far 55 Trees have been adopted. Suggestion to update the tags to put QR codes as well as a place to write the name of the adopter. **Steve and Susan will be a subcommittee to design new cards with QR codes.** Steve has put signs up in schools, Rachel Olivieri sent out emails to Green Teams and will send another follow-up at end of year. Could be helpful to change messaging a bit to make adopters realize they can keep a tree alive by delivering a few gallons of water twice a week rather than having them feel they need to FILL the watering bag, since this is not sustainable if a tree is far from a hose.
- Community Canopy: We have 5 trees left and Tim has approved two locations: the water tower and the pocket park at Grafton and Mass Ave. We need knowledgeable people to assist with planting. **Barbara will ask for approval for water tower location from Park and Rec,** otherwise we can just plant in the perimeter that belongs to the town.

7. Town stuff

- **Steve will register for Town Day**

8. New Business

- Yearly Calendar: Keith is working on this.
- Tree Management Plan: Waiting to hear from the grant before we do any major updates, but we should update numbers for the last 5 years.
- New Members: We need to ask for another town email blast about this. We also need to follow up with visitors.

Adjourn: 9:15pm

Next Meeting: July 12, 2023