



Arlington Tree Committee Minutes

Date: Wednesday, July 12, 2023

Time: 7:30 PM – 9:00 PM

Location: Conducted via Zoom and in-person @Town Hall Annex 2nd floor Conference Room

In attendance: Keith Schnebly, Mary Ellen Aronow, Eliza Burden, Steve Moore, Susan Stamps, Mara Vatz; Tim Lecuivre (Tree Warden). Visitors: Mike Gildesgame, Olivier Aries, Mark Bray, Serena Bray.

1. Review Agenda & Introduce Guests
 - Olivier is longtime member of Trustees of Reservations, and Appalachian Club, volunteers with Audubon. Interested in helping to protect and grow the Town's Tree Canopy.
 - Mike Gildesgame is the ConComm rep.
 - Mark and Serena Bray are residents with concerns about protecting trees in an upcoming building project.
2. Department of Public Works (DPW) Tree Division Update (Tim)
 - DPW has completed the move to its new permanent office on Grove St.
 - Tree Bylaw Activity:
 - 23 Wellesley St.; John Carney project. There are no trees on the property except a public shade tree in front (10-in Callery Pear) which they will protect.
 - 30 Mott St.; Marquis Tree service submitted a tree plan. One 24-in Norway Maple in the public right of way and 3 Honey Locusts in the setback, all will be kept and protected
 - 106 Mt. Vernon St.; Pegasus submitted a plan. They will protect a 2.5-in cherry tree, two black cherries, and two silver maples in the setback. This project came before the ZBA and has received a complaint: The sub-contractor started digging with no tree protection. Tim spoke to the builder and the trees are now being protected. **Keith will pursue issuing \$300 fine for the one day of work without protection.**
 - 24 Mystic Lake. So far no tree plan has been submitted, but Mark and Serena Bray (abutting neighbors) had arborist evaluate the site, and determined that the new construction will extensively damage the trees on neighboring lots. Neighbors will lose the shade and water retention provided by the tree. Damage to tree would be a liability to both properties because it would compromise the structure of the tree. Mike Gildesgame will find out if the property is in the 200 ft AURA zone of Mystic Lake.
 - Tim asked DPW if we could expand protection of the public shade trees to include the critical root zone (in the case of a tree in the strip that would mean fencing in the entire tree strip so equipment does not damage the tree roots that extend throughout this zone), which would require blocking the public right of way. **Keith will also ask town counsel if we can ask builders to cordon off the public right of way as part of public shade tree protection.**
 - Tree Maintenance Activity: Marquis Tree Service is helping with maintenance backlog. Northeastern Tree Service might continue with EAB treatment.
 - Other Tree Department news/updates
 - We have to outsource stump grinding and look into renting a machine. We can't get a new stump grinder this fiscal year.
 - Newly planted Hornbeam and Cherry trees have struggled this year, probably because of the drought last year.

3. Tree-related interactions with town:
 - ARB / ZBA -- Two 40B projects are moving forward. 10 Sunnyside is ongoing, with at least one more meeting before they close public input.
 - Planning -- David Morgan and Clare Ricker would like to talk with us about a public forum geared toward natural streetscape additions to MBTA Communities zoning. Susan and Mary Ellen will meet with David to discuss.
 - MBTA Communities -- Arlington must zone for 2,046 additional housing units. Public input suggests people want it along major corridors (Mass. Ave. and Broadway Ave.). Susan and Mary Ellen are pushing to have open space and trees and benches be part of the planning, like Lexington. The current plan has 0 ft. front setbacks. The committee supports Mary Ellen and Susan speaking on behalf of the Arlington Tree Committee in their request to preserve and increase tree canopy and accessible open space in streetscape.
 - Back-of-the-Sidewalk Tree Planting -- Tim is getting quotes for a contractor to purchase/deliver/install the tree. The lowest bid was \$850/tree, highest was about \$1,400 which includes watering. We still need to find out if contractors will be willing to walk on private property to plant the tree. **Mary Ellen will follow up with Mike R about the legality of this.**
 - Purchasing/Contracts -- Flagpole area in Town Hall, Susan contacted Jim Feeney about it
 - Inspectional Services -- In the process of moving into new building, so notices aren't up. Steve went through the paper forms and they look thorough. They're moving towards an online sign-off system. The affidavit is still not in the process. Tim says Inspectional Services is facing a great deal of work currently.
4. Publicity/Community Outreach
 - Town Day registration/volunteers – Steve submitted the Town Day application.
5. Town and Administrative Items
 - Keith and Mara got sworn in, but it's not up to date on the website.
6. New Business
 - Tree Management Plan – **Keith will get in touch with GIS coordinator Susan Brunton to get updated data.** We need to set a start date and discuss a scope of this project, but at least get updated data into the report.
7. Minutes
 - April, May and June minutes were approved.

Next Meeting: August 9, 2023