

Cambridge Committee on Public Planting

Meeting Minutes – November 9, 2022 - 5:30-7pm Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Attendance:

CPP Members: Maggie Booz, Sara Cohen, Chantal Eide, Sophia Emperador, Sandra Fairbank, Ruth Loetterle, Tracy Orr, Cynthia Smith.

DPW/City of Cambridge: Kevin Beutell, David Lefcourt, Andrew Putnam, Ellen Coppinger, Gary Chan (CDD).

Non-member Attendees: Charles Teague, Heather Hoffmann

Meeting notes submitted by: Tracy Orr

Agenda Item

1. ARBORIST UPDATE (provided by Dave Lefcourt)

- Number of trees getting removed this fall is 34
- Approximately 2/3rd are being removed for poor condition, 1/3rd being removed for design development
- Of the street trees, majority were stunted/not thriving (most are Lindens)

Questions/Concerns:

SE: inquired about species list for River Street Project that CPP looked at during the Oct 2021 meeting; Kevin Beutell said he'd send the list/schedule out to the group via email. It is attached at the end of minutes.

EC: inquired about fate of the 5 large crabapple trees at Carl Baron Plaza; Response was that they are too large to be transplanted, so will be removed; Tree hearing for this project is next Thursday (11/17/22).

2. TREE PLANTING UPDATE (by David Lefcourt)

- 13 trees will be planted by DPW as of 11/9/22
- 166 trees were planted by Leahey Landscaping (tree planting contractor) as of 11/9/22
- 429 trees were planned for planting this fall; 389 are right of way trees; 6 back of the sidewalk trees, 34 are park trees
- warm weather has been good for newly planted trees
- watering by contractor will terminate 11/9/22 as per contract

3. OTHER DPW UPDATES:

- a. Young Tree Training Program is a new program that went out to bid, Barrett Tree Services got the bid, is a 3 year contract.

b. A second Miyawaki Forest was planted this past weekend (11/5/22) at Green Rose Park (Dickinson Street x Broadway); 900 plants were planted, more than 40 species, S. Fairbanks inquired if existing trees were damaged, A. Putnam replied yes, so they were removed before Miyawaki was planted.

c. Kevin Beutell announced the meeting for Linear Park Design is scheduled for next Wednesday (11/16/22) & will be held virtually. Kevin will share link to CPP via email. Nov 16th meeting will be more comprehensive meeting sharing preliminary design.

4. CDD UPDATES (provided by Gary Chan)

- Planning board is meeting next Tuesday (11/15/22) at 6:30pm on Draft Zoning
- Citywide Design Guidelines Kickoff Meeting is next Wednesday (11/16/22) at 6pm
- Linear Park Meeting is next Wednesday (11/16/22) at 6:30pm
- Next Planning Board Meeting (12/13/22) has 2 project up for review
 - o 23 Reed Street (residential)
 - o 121 First Street (**possible inaccurate address**)
- CDD is wrapping up Open Space Planning Report; hopes to be posted on website soon

Questions/Comments:

M. Booz : Status of the link space between Fireplace Store and Danehy Park? K. Beutell responded that CDD is focusing on Linear Park first, then will begin concept phase of that new green space.

M. Booz: Will Citywide Design Guidelines committee have teeth to make action happen? G. Chan responded that it will be more of an advisory committee that creates suggestions for City Council; M. Booz suggests a CPP/DPW member be on the Design Guidelines Committee.

5. CPP UPDATES

1. LETTER TO CITY MANAGER (S. Emperor): Draft of a letter to the new City Manager is in progress and will get shared with entire CPP committee for review and comments soon

2. OUTREACH (presented by R. Loetterle)

Preliminary action items include:

Get messages/materials from DPW & explore methods to get CPP's messages out to public

Identify appropriate events and restart tabling

Add to our list of other neighborhood/volunteer groups so CPP can cross post, share info, reach more ears/eyes. Ruth will share out list of groups with CPP so members can add to

3. GOALS for 2023 (S. Emperor): list of CPP's goals for 2023 is being generated, Zoning should be a key one

6. General questions, comments, discussion:

- A. Putnam will give update on Urban Forestry Master Plan at January CPP Meeting
- M. Booz inquired about how Tree Ordinance impacted # trees saved on public property since it was instated; A.Putnam will put together tree removal application stats for next meeting
- CPP member inquired if a follow up process was in place for Tree Ordinance Program as comp for removal; Response is yes, DPW checks in at end of each planting season and photos of new trees are required.
- C.Smith inquired when CPP meetings will go in person, possibly January, Sophia will do a poll to gauge preferences.
- C. Smith inquired about status of planning for trees along Memorial Drive, S.Fairbanks answers that it's waiting on new plan and possible change in staff with new Governor
- S.Fairbanks suggests CPP connects with new director at Mt Auburn Cemetery and asks them to present at upcoming CPP meeting

7. Public Comments

- C.Teague inquired about linear park gateways and AASHTO path width measurements; will be discussed at Linear Park Meeting scheduled for 11/16/22
- C.Teague inquired about state of tree survey done recently, noted concern about discrepancies
- H.Hoffman raised concern about Linear Park and if meeting next week will have accommodations for visually impaired individuals, thanked CPP for efforts, offered help adding to CPP's list of neighborhood group for outreach efforts.