Hello fellow Tree Task Force members,

We know that we haven’t been in a position to communicate with each other much while we’ve been on the TTF, so we do hope that everyone finds this email appropriate, but we’re writing to make sure that everyone knows that the City Council is discussing and voting this evening on a proposed Policy Order to prevent tree cutting in the city for the duration of the work of our Task Force and Reed Hildebrand’s Urban Forest Master Plan. The Policy Order is attached below. Policy Orders, as you may know, are devised and debated by the City Councilors, voted upon, and if accepted, sent to the City Manager for approval.

We feel that this Policy Order makes common sense. Ours is clearly a city in tree crisis, according to everything we’ve heard in the research so far presented by RH. We feel that there is little point in getting even further behind in tree canopy coverage while the months tick by until our work yields actionable items for maintaining/growing our urban forest. We expect those actionable items are likely to result in more Policy Orders from a freshly cognizant City Council and an environmentally informed City Manager.

Some of us plan to say a few words each in support of this proposed PO at the City Council meeting, public comment period, tonight. If any of you are like-minded and can go to the meeting, we encourage you to do so, and we encourage you to sign up to speak.

Thanks so much, yours in a steadfast dedication to an improved and thriving tree canopy in Cambridge.

Maggie Booz, Elena Saporta, Louise Weed, Florrie Wescoat