

City of Cambridge Committee on Public Planting

Meeting Minutes – June 8, 2022 - 5:30-7pm

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Attendance

CPP Members: Vinita Bhaskar, Cindy Carpenter, Sara Cohen, Paula Cortes, Chantal Eide, Sophia Emperador, Maria Hottelet, Joan Krizack, Ahron Lerman, Ruth Loetterle, Tracey Orr, Cynthia Smith

DPW/City of Cambridge: Abby Bentley, Kevin Beuttell, Andrew Putnam, Erik Thorkildsen (CDD)

Guests & members of the public: Olga Slavin

Meeting notes submitted by: Sophia Emperador

Agenda Items:

1. Review of May mtg notes
2. Updates from City Arborists
3. Updates from CDD Rep Erik Thorkildsen
 - a. **June 28** | 49 Sixth Street (AHO-4) Renovation of the Sacred Heart's school building into affordable housing. 49 6th Street - CDD - City of Cambridge, Massachusetts (cambridgema.gov)
 - b. **July 5** | 116 Norfolk Street (AHO-5) Renovation of the existing building and construction of an addition for affordable housing.
 - c. **July 12** | 151 Morgan Ave_CX (PB-179) Parcel Q2 (TS/AT) – Design Review + Amend 10 (minor) <https://www.cambridgema.gov/specialpermits/pb179>
4. Other items:
 - a. Memorial Drive Reconstruction - Tree Walk (4/8/22) update
 - b. Options for July field trip
 - Danehey Park - Miyawaki Forest (Bio4Climate)
 - Kendall Sq area (w/MIT rep)
 - Other suggestions
 - c. Tree removal permit case studies and data request

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1) Review of prior meeting minutes

No edits we proposed for the May meeting minutes. Motion to approve meeting minutes was initiated by Chantal Eide and seconded by Joan Krizack.

2) Updates from City Arborist - Abby Bentley

City arborist crew and Lahey have begun tree plantings and have been working with bare root trees at the new nursery at the City Golf Course. Abby will be gathering more specific planting numbers for the next meeting.

3) Updates from CDD - Erik Thorkildsen

Upcoming projects to the Planning Board:

- a. 49 Sixth Street (AHO-4) - Sacred Heart School - renovation
 - Residential conversion, some affordable units, no species list provided
 - CPP recommendations - add more trees where possible; open up corner garden and add trees; encourage using the roof space as outside green space; site has narrow sidewalks-encourage extra tree protection and

care during construction for existing trees; & encourage to plant more ROW trees.

- b. 116 Norfolk Street (AHO-5) - CHA affordable housing
 - Design presented is a combination of new buildings; no car, only bike parking; & new trees proposed in the open space areas - species unknown.
 - CPP Recommendations: add vegetation and shade trees instead of a hedgerow; the proposed cedar & serviceberries will get gnarly, switch out for another species; maples are ubiquitous, Emerald City tulip tree or a fastigate tulip tree might be better suggestions; shade trees instead of cedar trees (ie siberian spruce); suggest adding two trees where the Armstrong maple is located.
- b. 151 Morgan Ave_CX (PB-179) Parcel Q2 (TS/AT)
 - Cambridge Crossing - lab/office (DIVCO-developer)
 - substantial street trees proposed, continuous street trees in front of building entry.
 - CPP Recommendations: tone down honey locust usage; golden rain tree is listed - this is an invasive and should not be used; catalpa is also listed, its weak wooded & messy street tree, not the best option; suggest adding more native varieties - best to avoid periwinkle, wisteria, ajuga; ask to review planting plan, remove non-natives when possible (Canadian windflower, gold & gold, etc.)

4)Others items

-Memorial Drive Reconstruction - Memorial Drive Phase 3 Public Meeting held by DCR to be held virtually on 6/30/2022

-Options for July field trip were discussed, including a walking tour of Kendall and MIT area or the Miyawaki Forest at Danehey Park. No decision was made by the committee.

-Tree removal permit case studies and data request - Abby has indicated that this data can be accessed through the online portal: <https://data.cambridgema.gov/Public-Works/Tree-Removal-Permits/vj95-me7d>

5) Public Comments

Olga Slavin spoke of the site at 17 Otis St - a recent *de-paved location* and there is huge bed around the tree, only annuals being planted & the temporary installation is "very ugly".

CPP Suggested to contact Ellen Coppinger who is in charge of the de-paving projects.

NOTE: The foregoing represents our understanding of the discussions and decisions made during this meeting. The CPP requests permission to quote or reference these notes.