

## **City of Cambridge Committee on Public Planting**

Meeting Minutes – September 13, 2022 - 5:30-7pm

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

### **Attendance (\*denotes attendance via zoom)**

#### Returning CPP Members:

C. Smith, R. Loetterle, C. Carpenter (co-chair), S. Cohen, T. Orr, M. Booz, C. Eide, S. Emperador (co-chair), A. Lerman\* (not present: Vinita Bhaskar)

#### Newly appointed CPP Members:

Raymond Fahrner, Robb Johnson, Archana Venkataraman, Gretchen Friesinger, Amira Valliani\*, Uri Bulow\* (not present Angela Zhong)

DPW/City of Cambridge: Andrew Putnam, David Lefcourt, Abigail Bently, Kristin Kelleher, Ellen Coppinger, Kevin Beutell\*

#### Guests & members of the public:

Brendan Roy (Director of Construction, City of Cambridge)\*, Ted Galante\* (Ted Galante Architecture Studios-TGAS), Paolo Carissimi (TGAS)\*, Marc Mazzarelli (Mar Cazzarelli Associates)\*, Jeb Mays\*, Charles Creagh (CDD)\*

Meeting notes submitted by: Tracy Orr

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### **Agenda Items:**

1. Review meeting minutes from May, June & July 2023 (all approved)
2. Project Review: Fire Department HQ parcel; presented by Ted Gallante (architect) & Marc Mazarelli (Landscape Architect), Brendan Roy (note: planting plan, site analysis & site photographs were not provided during the presentation)
  - 2.1. Building update/renovation & re landscaping plans to allow for accessibility: handicapped & pedestrian access to primary egresses and city mandated 5 bicycle racks.
  - 2.2. 2 options presented: A with removal of 3 trees only, B with removal of 4 tree
  - 2.3. Existing tree allee on Quincy St corner, 3 Parrotia trees (approx 3" cal each) to be removed to allow for pedestrian access to main doors.
  - 2.4. Option B would remove a 4<sup>th</sup> tree, (4.5" cal honeylocust) to keep all 5 bicycle racks off the sidewalk in designated area
  - 2.5. CPP's supported/preferred option A with fewer trees removed
  - 2.6. C.Smith inquired about adding landscape features planned for "the point" of the property. Utilities needed to be housed in that space and access to those utilities are obstacles to lots of large plantings, but small plantings may be worked into small areas where access allows.
  - 2.7. As part of new landscape plan, multiple new trees will be planted (Redbud and Florida Dogwood are included general)
  - 2.8. A. Lerman suggested alternative native small tree species and expressed concerns with pavement permeability
3. CPP Introductions and Welcome presentation by co-chairs

- 3.1. CPP is officially a city committee with specific purpose to ‘promote and improve quality and diversity of public plantings’ , to act in an advisory capacity with the main jobs to 1. Review planting plans – special permits and large public project reviews, 2. Support forestry staff, 3. To encourage and promote an interest in public plantings
- 3.1.1. Ordinance requirements of the committee:
  - 3.1.1.1. 11-20 members, including at least 1 city arborist, 1 Community Development Department representative and 1 City Open Space representative, remainder are city residents
  - 3.1.1.2. Service term is 3 years, monthly meetings need 7 member quorum, to follow Massachusetts open meeting laws, meeting minute recorded and made available to public
  - 3.1.1.3. Current priorities of CPP: 1. Policy & Governance 2. Outreach 3. Ongoing Projects/ Initiatives

#### 4. Project Update: Linear Park

- 4.1. Review to update CPP on airspading work & root investigation done summer 2023 by Barrett Tree Services East
- 4.2. Charlie Creigh (CDD) reported airspading report results available indicated pathway can be widened without significantly disruption and claimed that where tree roots do not allow widening of path, they will not widen, where possible without tree damage/impact they will widen with hand digging and air spading and other techniques to keep trees healthy; claimed only 1 red maple tree to definitely be removed
- 4.3. Barrett Tree Service East claims they can widen path with airspading and hand digging of tree roots without compromising tree health
- 4.4. Ruth Lorette (CPP) comment – she’s still concerned with path widening and inaccuracies in the tree survey data; claims multiple trees were missing from survey, inquired about timing of bid (Jan or later)
- 4.5. Maggie Booze (CPP) inquired why widening of path was necessary; Charlie Creigh stated path would need to be brought up to city standard of 14’ width, or 12’ at minimum.

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#### **Items for further/future discussion:**

At 7:09 Ray Fahrner motioned to table Ruth’s video on proposed path width staking at Linear park to next month’s meeting. Majority approved. Sophia motioned to move city arborist update to next month's meeting also –majority approved.

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**Next meeting:** Our next meeting (hybrid) will be held on October 11, 2023 at 5:30pm and will be advertised to the public in advance.