

Committee on Public Planting  
Minutes  
Wednesday, April 10, 2019

Members Present:

Seanna Berry, Maggie Booz (co-Chair), Chantal Eide, Nancy Jordalen, Joan Krizack, David Lefcourt (City Arborist), Ann MacAdam, John Nardone (City Deputy Operations Commissioner), Nancy Phillips, Andrew Putnam (City Supt. of Urban Forestry and Landscapes), Erik Thorkildsen (Urban Designer, CDD), Florrie Wescoat (co-Chair).

Guests: John Anderson, visiting from Arlington to learn what Cambridge is doing

1. Review of March Minutes – Unavailable; delayed until May meeting
2. Updates  
*Arborist*
  - David Lefcourt updated that tree planting for the year officially started today.
  - They have been working on cutting tree wells to new (larger) specs and addressing the soil quality in recent weeks
  - Map of trees that are to be planted will be posted soon
  - EAB treatments will be starting in June
  - Arbor Day/week is coming up and DPW has many outreach activities planned. They will be planting with CRLS students at Danehy park, and doing a tree planting at 2 schools (rotates each year)
  - There was discussion around nursery sourcing. Tree quality is observed to be a bit better from nurseries further south. A potential downside is that they are not resilient to deep freezes that occur here.
  - There was also discussion around compost tea. DPW is starting to brew it from OMRI compost (Groundscapes Express, sourced locally from South Shore), and will be prioritizing the application of this to new plantings. Kudos on this project! The CPP members expressed interest in doing a visit of the brewing operation once up and running.

*CDD updates*

- None at this time

3. March 26 Public Hearing on memorial tree program  
Joan Krizack attended this hearing and reported back on the discussion. It does not provide a net increase in tree planting (only dedicates an existing tree), and DPW staff time should be on growing tree canopy
  - Current cost for a memorial tree (\$200) does not cover the actual planting cost (\$1800)
  - Signage must go through lengthy approval process, is expensive, and then will require maintenance
  - Low demand – there were only 2 requests last year

#### 4. Google Drive (for CPP documents) Update

Seanna updated the group on the progress of the creation of a shared Google drive for relevant documents

- City staff worked with the City Attorney to ensure that we are complying with Open Meeting Law
- Seanna will send out re-invitation to the group; must install and log in to Google Drive. See online tutorials for assistance if needed.
- Items that are stored here must be mentioned in the meeting, and noted in the minutes
- Items must be in read-only format (pdf is best) – not a place for shared editing of documents, only for reference and items already discussed at public monthly meeting
- If anyone needs assistance uploading, Seanna can assist

#### 5. CPP Letter to Urban Forest Master Plan Task Force – discussion

There was discussion of and edits to the letter that the committee would like to submit for the conclusion of the UFMP task force's meetings.

- Design and the plan should be as aspirational as possible
- Time is of the essence on this plan, and other concurrent redevelopment projects must also slow the destruction of mature trees. Replacement is not sufficient, as young trees do not provide the same ecosystem services as mature trees. There was considerable discussion about the greenway bike path and the reasons (flood mitigation, previous plans, DCR-owned property) for many mature trees being removed all at once, especially in the Strawberry Hill area.
- Reed Hildebrand proposed a paradigm shift in the way we think about our streets and how much of the public right-of-way is devoted to vehicular traffic and parking (rather than people, bikes, and plants/trees). \*\*Uploaded graphic is in shared Google Drive – a cross-section of proposed street design typologies. Also available as a slide in presentation from UFMP website.
- DPW also worked with Charles River Watershed Association and produced a document that outlines similar street designs utilizing more green infrastructure to retain stormwater, increase permeable surfaces, and calm vehicular traffic. \*\*Uploaded to drive

#### 6. Other business

- 4/11 – There will be a public meeting about Phase III of the Memorial Drive project from BU Bridge to Eliot Bridge (near Nonantum Road)
- 4/25 – Final Urban Forest Master Plan meeting. After this, the plan will go to city council for discussion and review, then will become a master plan for implementation
- Next meeting of the CPP will be May 8<sup>th</sup>.

Submitted by: Seanna Berry