

Committee for Public Planting 12

February 2020 minutes

Attendees:

Chantal Eide, Gabriel Robinson, Paula Cortes, Juan P. Avendano - CDD, Melissa Miguel - CDPW, Jason Bobowski - Hatch, Erik Thorkildsen - CDD, Abigail Bentley - DPW, Seanna Berry, Maggie Booz, Florrie Wescoat, Sophia Emperador, Nancy Phillips, Michael Hanlon, Andrew Putnam, Ellen Copping, Ann MacAdam

Minutes from January:

Approved with the addition of Sophia Emperador on the attendee list.

Arborist Update from Andrew Putnam:

400 bare root trees were procured, 200 are to be planted, 200 are to be heeled in for later. 200 balled and burlapped are to be tagged. A total of 400 trees will be planted this spring. 200 positions for trees have been marked, 90 of the Participatory Budget locations will be marked out in a week. Many are new tree wells in parts of the city where they will best mitigate the heat island effect.

About 40 trees from last Fall had root balls that were too small and are leaning.

Flyers and posters:

Adopt a Tree flyers and posters were shown - all were impressed with the high level of the graphic quality and appeal of these posters and flyers. The message is: weed, water, mulch. During Arbor Week the signs will be on gator bags and flyers will be at Starbucks.

Tree Moratorium:

The Tree Moratorium passed. Also City Council voted \$1.2 million for new tree planting, soil testing, and community outreach.

CDD presentations:

- **Erik Thorkildsen** presented **Smith Place at Alewife**. There's to be a new office and lab building. Currently there is much impervious cover. The Alewife district plan is rethinking this area as mixed use urban blocks. Possibly a pedestrian bridge over the tracks. There are elevated sidewalks over the 2070 flood level. The building was pushed back to unblock future streets. This is a bog area - trees chosen will be species compatible with swamp

conditions. Soil there is not very absorptive. Spacing between trees on plan is excessive. Erik will suggest more planting. The project will go to the Planning Board on 25 February.

- **Jason Bobowski from Hatch** presented **Cushing St. Plaza**. The area had been necked down previously but there is a lot of paving. This area is by Glacken Field at Fresh Pond, and the slope is being restored. There are utilities underneath and 6 struggling ginkgoes - tree wells are small. There are two Mt. Auburn veterans memorials. It's a sea of paving, very impervious, and in disrepair. The memorials are in bad shape. There is driveway access through the plaza. The idea is to depave, infiltrate storm water, and use green infrastructure where possible. The hope is to extend the planting palette from Fresh Pond with native species. There is an opportunity to maximize canopy trees here. Locate root balls between utilities. Boulders would be used to terrace the slope, slowing the water. There would be a change from 2.7% pervious to 48.4% pervious. This would be a Chapter 90 state project. It could start in October or it could take three years to start.

Agenda for 2020:

Subcommittees:

- **Brochure** to educate citizens about trees proposed by Ann MacAdam. Ann and Paula would work on this. Should be added to the brochure that existing mature trees are not easily replaced. This could go out the the city manager's quarterly brochure. Owen thought it could happen. It should go from Andrew to Owen to Lisa to the city manager.
- **Outreach** at public events - tables, activities for children. The Cambridge farmers market. Arbor week is 20-24 April - put out cards and brochures.
- **Landscaping at Existing Schools**: For the new schools, there is comprehensive landscaping, but for existing schools, there's not much. Perhaps we could engage the school department. A school should be in a garden. Graham and Parks is getting new trees. Maybe there could be a subcommittee to analyze existing schools for landscaping opportunities.

Action Items:

- Try to get as many trees planted as possible! Goal (UFMP) is 3-4000/year
- Can Cushing Sq. and other such areas happen any more quickly
- Check back with Stoss about less hardscaping on their East Cambridge projects
- Check back on all previous projects to make sure our suggestions are implemented
- What entity is responsible for implementing the suggestions from the Urban Forestry Master Plan Technical Report?
- See that the city's \$1.2 million for trees is spent wisely

Chantal