

Committee on Public Planting Minutes

2-10-21

Submitted by: Maggie Booz

Attendees:

Abby Bentley, David Lefcourt, Andrew Putnam DPW, Gary Chan, Kate Riley CDD, Maggie Booz, Paula Cortes, Chantal Eide, Sophia Emperador, Joan Krizack, Cynthia Smith.

The meeting was called to order and the January minutes were approved.

Arborist Update:

- Participatory Budgeting winner was micro-forests, UF proposing sites at Danehy Park and Russell Field for these so far. Maybe Peabody School, maybe Gore Street Park and O'Brien Park
- UF has anticipated 100-200 extra trees for this year to be planted and has planned for their maintenance with 2-3 year maintenance in price (water)
- Water-by-bike program, Andrew reports, will increase this year in terms of going from paying waterers for 4 days/30 hours per week to 5 days/37.5 hours per week
- There were 8 employed in 2019, 6 employed in 2020, and they'll be back to 8 employed in 2021
- Planting locations have been selected for street trees and parks, 125 going in parks and open spaces, 350 on streets, the majority being bare root
 - Longfellow Park: tulip tree, scarlet oak, black oak, and dogwoods or amelanchiers
- Dave reports "sleep, creep, leap" nature of bare roots in that they take off in growth in years 3-5, and that they don't require staking as much as B&B do

Special projects:

- Cushing Plaza plans by Hatch LA are progressing, Abby will share with group though still not final
- School grounds we will ask for update from Owen O'Riordan in March
- Glacken Field we will ask for update in March

CDD Report from Gary Chan:

- Vassar Street graduate dorm being heard next Tuesday by PB, case #PB371 with plaza aligning with Fort Washington Park
 - Taking out 374" of dbh
 - Proposing to replace/mitigate with 358" of dbh
 - Paula asked about Chinkapin Oak and it was explained that those might be common in Ohio/Midwest
 - Cynthia would like to see bigger trees proposed along side

CPP role versus Planning Board:

- CPP would like Planning Board to express more of a policy of setting buildings back from property lines to continue re-greening Cambridge
- CPP would like to be shown LA plans before Planning Board sees projects
- CPP should be reviewing projects in service on intent of Urban Forest master Plan
- Andrew suggested that a developer brings a project that will need a PB Special Permit, he could send the documents to a CPP Point Person. We can then review and comment simultaneous with UF staff

Planning Board and Green Roofs:

- PB voted not to recommend the green roof proposal to the City Council Ordinance Committee. The Climate Resiliency Task Force is working on drafting Ordinance language with a multi-prong approach instead of one (green roof) solution, like Cool-Factor calculations

CPP Internal:

- Maggie Booz stepped down as CPP Chair and proposed Sophia Emperador as the new Chair, which she accepted.. Paula Cortes seconded, and it was voted on, unanimously in favor of Sophia.

-David reported that many people were interviewed a few weeks ago for participation in the CPP, with a wide variety of talents, and if they accept their appointments will join us in March. 10 out of 13 Cambridge neighborhoods will be represented on the CPP