

City of Cambridge Committee on Public Planting

Meeting Minutes – March 8, 2023 – 6 - 7 pm

Hybrid meeting, with virtual attendance via Zoom and in-person at Main DPW Conference Room

Attendance

CPP Members: Ahron Lerman, Chantal Eide, Cindy Carpenter*, Cynthia Smith, Paula Cortes, Ruth Loetterle, Sandra Fairbank, Sara Cohen, Sophia Emperador*, Tracy Orr, Vinita Bhaskar.

CPP members not in attendance: Michael Hanlon.

DPW/City of Cambridge: David Lefcourt*, Ellen Coppinger, Erik Thorkildsen (CDD), Kevin Beuttell*, Kristen Kelleher*

Guests & members of the public: Charles Teague.

(indicates attendees who attended in person)*

Meeting notes submitted by: Cindy Carpenter.

Agenda Items:

1. Review of Meeting Minutes for February
2. Updates from City Arborists
3. Other meeting items:
 - Outreach sub-committee
 - Summary of current efforts
 - Arbor Day events & how we can be involved
4. Public comments

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1. Approved February 2023 meeting minutes. We will add minutes not previously approved for approval at the April meeting.
 2. Updates from City Arborists:
 - Abby tagging trees in NJ today
 - Pruning trees
 - New program, recommended by UFP, to do structural pruning for all young trees, to improve long-term health. Contract with Barrett Tree, pruned all trees planted in 2020 (small number due to COVID), and all those installed in 2019 and fall of 2018. Plan is to prune all trees installed in 2021 in the 2023-2024 winter (roughly a thousand trees).
 - Charge is by size - for less than 20 ft tall or over 20 ft tall. About \$85/smaller, roughly \$90 for larger trees. No ladder work.
 - Contract is one year, with option to renew for year 2 and year 3.

- Beginning planning work for Arbor Day Week.

3. Outreach Sub-Committee

- CPP working on supporting Arbor Day Week activities and promotion.
- Plans for activities:
 - April 24, Monday, will put out tree poems around schools and City Hall, maybe T stops if we have enough boards.
 - April 25, Tuesday, will be Forestry and CPP, table 10 – 12 in front of City Hall – handing out seedlings, magnets, other stuff. Will plant a tree with Amigo School. May have to move tabling.
 - April 26, Weds., planting tree with Cambridgeport school with Mayor and others, at park near the school.
 - Thursday, April 27, will table at main CPL to hand out seedlings. 100 common lilac, 100 redbud, 50 blue spruce. And 50 tulip trees.
- Will also put out some tree fun facts, created by interns a few years back. May reinstitute a scavenger hunt, will read children's books.
- May do a tree walk in one of the neighborhoods – probably 5 – 5:30 p.m.
- Request to CPP to promote Arbor Day activities and UF programs, create greater awareness in the community.

4. Other items

- Forestry team will provide an update on Linear Park in another CPP meeting, possibly in April.
- Another hearing on the Lechmere Canal Park will be held on March 28, at 6:30 p.m.
- CPP member requests updates on projects the CPP has previously commented on.
- CPP members are asked to sign up for involvement with specific projects or areas. For example, Ruth volunteers to track the Lechmere Canal Park. Erik suggests looking at the planning board website to see projects underway and coming up.
- CPP requests opportunity to provide inputs to the big projects coming up, before the landscaping plan is developed, e.g. Volpe Transportation project, the MIT project next to it. Also the Alewife project, focused on building heights and FAR now, not landscaping yet. Building heights and building area will have an impact on planting plans. Erik will ask for an update from Zoning at an upcoming CPP meeting.
- We'll have a presentation on the Open Space report, probably at the April CPP meeting.
- CPP member asks: what about CPP members who do not attend meetings? David: Some members have left over the past two years. Also, City Hall asked about upcoming term renewals and application process, and more info will be coming from City Hall in the near future.

5. Motion to end the meeting.

Next meeting: Our next meeting will be held on April 12 , 2023 at 5:30 pm.

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