

## **Cambridge Committee on Public Planting | Meeting Minutes – April 11, 2018**

Attendees: Chantal Eide, Kathleen Kelly, Paula Cortés, Florrie Westcoat, Michael Hanlon, Maggie Booz, Dennis Jen, Gary Chan, David Lefcourt, Cynthia Smith, Sophia Emperador

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### **Review of Minutes from February**

- Requested amendments:
  - Edit: #4 honey locust in Vellucci Park – scheduled to have a tree hearing on April 10, does not refer to tree removal.
  - Important to include a comment that CPP members did not endorse one scheme over another – remove first two sentences and last clause (see Feb minutes).
  - Minutes approved with amendments noted above.

### **Updates from Owen O'Riordan, Commissioner**

- Urban Forest Master Plan (UFMP)
  - The contract was awarded to Reed Hilderbrand (including 4-5 sub-consultants: Conservation Law Foundation, Bartlett Tree, AES, Kleinfelder) with an agreed scope of work, to be signed by 4/16-20/18. They are a highly motivated team, and DPW is very pleased with their submission. The final expected product from this contract includes a document with recommendations dealing with the zoning and management of the urban forest (12 months draft – 18 months final).
  - Submission of the final list of recommended members for the Urban Forest Task Force (UFTF) to the city council should occur by 4/16-20/18. The first group meeting is planned for the last week May.
- Based on concerns from the CPP and the City Council a process is underway to hire more management personnel for the urban forestry division. This position will be associated with the parks division, but still work closely with the DPW. The position of Superintendent of Urban Forestry and Landscapes is currently being advertised.
- CPP is short of members; need to advertise these open positions.

### **Updates from David Lefcourt, City Arborist**

- Spring Planting updates:
  - Funding has been acquired for 250 trees, 225 have been accounted for, and 25 additional locations still need to be identified.
  - Dolan Square – requests for additional trees
  - North Cambridge- two residents have requested trees, David has asked them to find specific locations, he will follow up with those residents.
- Introduction to the work management system Cartegraph (GIS Based ESRI system): Platform gives access to the tree inventory data and allows for real-time updates. Public information (web) tied to the database is updated monthly. Internal web-based access is provided to certain contractors who can also make updates (watering, treatments, pruning, etc.). The system is a great way to collect data (caliper, soil amendment, etc.) over time and assign tasks.
- Tree planting: DL will confirm with the planting contractor about using the Biochar mix (BIOCHAR Tree and Shrub mix) and compost for every new tree planted this season. This mixture would be added when backfilling newly planted trees. Need to look into additional cost for contractors.

- Arbor Week: Tree tags near community locations were used last year. Yard signed used this year, indicating benefits provided by trees (3 facts per tree: stormwater, energy savings, carbon pooling) and adopt-a-tree program information.
  - Arbor week schedule (found in Cambridge Chronicle and online):
    - Mon: Fletcher Maynard Academy – talk/presentation to kids
    - Tue: City Hall - handing out seedlings
    - Wed: Tree walk - starting from the main library to Harvard Yard
    - Thu: Main library - forestry department with truck and seedlings
    - Fri: Greene Rose Heritage Park - tree planting
- Additional suggested projects:
  - Fletcher Maynard – suggestions to add bollards/posts to deter truck from driving on grass and planting areas, new trees to be installed this year.
  - Dead tree replacements – Huron Ave, between Fountain and Holworthy (east), also spot across the street from the Mt Auburn Veteran Memorial Plaza.

#### **Updates from Gary Chan, CDD**

- Planning board projects in the pipeline, of interest for CPP:
  - 4/17 - Alexandria #243 amendment to PB and design review for residential building; 50 Rodger St - plans online
  - Update: University monument site (residential) – CPP will be able to review plans during the review of certificate of occupancy phase. Initially scheduled for 5/15 but pushed back TBD. CPP members are welcome to submit comments at any phase of the process.

#### **General Updates and Questions**

- Public outreach opportunities (MB and FW)
  1. MB and FW attended Sierra Club of MA conference on “Revitalizing Ecosystems in Greater Boston to Survive Climate Change.”
    - Key conference speakers: Tom Wessels and Zeyneb Magavi
    - Topic overview: Coastal systems, ecosystems, Mystic River Watershed, “Depave the Way” organization, Urban Forests, and roundtable discussions.
  2. Outreach - Maggie manned a table at Get Growing Day for Green Cambridge (at Cambridge Farmers Market, yearly event) – spoke on CPP issues. Many other demonstrations (beekeepers, chickens, raised beds, etc.) at the event.
- Identified need to come up with more interactive events, times to participate and opportunities for outreach:
  - Examples: Fresh Pond Day, Cambridge Arts Festival – on the river (June), Danehy Park Day (September)
- Information that would be good to have when participating in these events:
  - Adopt-a-tree: questions, maintenance (general information/directions) – good to have basic instructions (find on Adopt-A-Tree web page)
  - Would be helpful to develop some language for these events – Carol volunteered to write a first draft (use language from tree tags as a starting point) and share with the group, would be great to have by Arbor week.
- Questions about gator bags, are they working? Yes, when used correctly they are working well. This winter the bags were removed to give trunks an ability to harden. Additional bags are available at the DPW during growing season.