

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC PLANTING, Meeting Minutes October 9, 2018

Present: Staff: David Lefcourt, CDD, John Nardone, DPW, Gary Chen, CDD. Members: Chantal Eide, Maggie Booz, Paula Cortes, Michael Hanlon; Cynthia Smith, Nancy Phillips, Andrew Putnam, Carolyn Mathews, Seanna Berry, Joan Krizack, Pat Pratt. Guests: Sandra Fairbank, Karin Weller; Jerry Friedman, DPW, others??

Meeting was called to order 5:00 pm.

The minutes of the September 12 2018 meeting were reviewed and approved.

New members of the Committee were introduced. Seanna Berry, Joan Krizack, [others ??]

Willard Street Project – introduced by Jerry Friedman, DPW, and Cynthia Smith, landscape architect representing Halvorson Design Partnership. Project addresses storm drainage and sewer separation needs. A new storm drain has been designed, with re-establishment of an outfall to the Charles River. Bike traffic is also being taken into account for the design. The project is at 75% design completion. There are opportunities for new trees. Parking will remain on the West side, formalizing the existing conditions for parking. There was considerable discussion around new trees, salt tolerant species, structural soils at the trees proceeding below the sidewalk pavement to the back of sidewalk, and piping connecting tree wells for storm water overflow. Pervious pavement was also discussed, along with issues such as the considerable maintenance necessary for it to work properly. J. Nardone mentioned that “this is an experiment”. Species mentioned were *Nyssa sylvatica*, *Gleditsia triacanthos*, *Liquidambar styraciflua*, *Maackia amurensis*.

Questions were asked about how this planting type relates to the Urban Forest Master Plan. 10 foot long by 3 foot wide tree wells allowable?

A suggestion was made to recommend to abutters to have the largest trees possible for back of sidewalk planting. M. Hanlon mentioned a sun/shade study which was presented to the adjacent Tennis/Skating Club, suggesting benefits of large trees, possibly pines. Shade would prolong the ice for winter skating, and also good for summer shade during tennis season.

M. Booz suggested linking tree wells where possible, especially on the West side near Mt. Auburn St. J. Friedman said he would look into this. M. Booz also asked whether the amount of concrete poured around the curbing might be minimized since this consumes considerable space otherwise available to tree root growth. M. Hanlon suggested using tap rooted trees, such as *Paulownia* which is a fast growing tree. P. Cortes suggested that there may be issues with hardiness of this tree, invasiveness, as well as being susceptible to wind damage.

Erik Thorkildsen, CDD, presented information about several projects coming forward: MXD Project, a triangular area at Kendall Square and Main St. near the subway plaza; Termeer Square at 3rd and 2nd St. near Broad Canal; 50 Cambridge Park Drive and Rogers St. He will send the committee links to these projects.

The MXD is an “infill development concept plan” proposed change to PUD, to move building to the Coop side. The Planning Board has continued the hearing, date TBD. The plan will have an impact on the “Martha Schwartz plaza” with shade and change to the character of the street. Construction will necessitate the temporary removal of trees, Elm varieties, to a park, to be replanted after construction is complete. D. Lefcourt indicated that these trees have a very good chance of surviving successfully.

The development has larger implications, especially the casting of shade. It was mentioned that in Boston developers have been required to provide mitigation – money and other considerations including replacement open space. (\$650 per caliper inch) [not sure where this figure comes from]
The Termeer Square project is near the winter open skating rink between Linskey Way and Athenaeum St. at W. Kendall St. It is a redesign to make the plaza/open space more visible.
Given the project presented here, and their physical proximity, P. Cortes wondered whether there is any current discussion in the City to look at all of the development in this location in an overall and inter-related way. There did not appear to be relatedness of the two distinct projects.

D. Lefcourt presented Arborist updates:

The Adopt A Tree website: there was an internal meeting which concluded that no updates were required, but 3 tips were sent out to adopt a tree people. 591 trees were adopted by 221 different people. Discussion centered around the usefulness of more publicity for this program. A/The [??] Task Force is looking into this.

The Memorial Tree program could also benefit from some changes, which has not been active.

The LIDAR work he did not address because there are errors in the data. UVM and Reed Hilderbrand (Urban Task Force consultant) will need these corrections to use for their work.

The Task Force meets typically 6-8pm the last Thursday of the month at the Media Arts center, CR&L.

Fall planting: 230 trees planted (215 B&B, 15 bare root). The bare root planting is experimental using fall hazard tree species. Participatory trees: 35 planted now, 65 next spring.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:10 pm. Minutes taken by Paula Cortes