

Committee on Public Planting (CPP)
November 2010 Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, November 10th, 2010

Present: David Lefcourt, City Arborist, Les Barber, Community Development Dept. representative, Emily Axelrod, Margrit Betke, Maggie Booz, Janet Burns, Paula Cortes, David Davis (co-chair), Chantal Eide, E. Thomas Flynn, Mauricio Gomez, Michael Hanlon(co-chair), Denise Heintze, Kathleen Kelly, Tom Lynott, Carolyn Mathews, Nancy Phillips, Julianne Schwarzer, Grenelle Scott and Florrie Westcoat

David Lefcourt will create and email/handout CPP roster to committee members

#1: New members were introduced and October meeting minutes admitted into the records. At future meetings, a different individual each month will write the minutes. A signup sheet for the next 12 months was passed around.

#2: Ordinance Review

- a. All CPP members present had a copy of the Ordinance establishing the CPP. Janet Burns reviewed the history of the CPP.
- b. Les Barber: there was an Open Space plan developed 3 or 4 years ago, with recommendations for new parks and capital improvements. The Open Space Committee has never had a regular representative at the CCP Meetings and members were unclear about what the Open Space Committee did. Les Barber said that he would invite someone from the Open Space Committee to the next meeting.
- c. Dave Davis suggested that if CPP members see ordinances from other cities, they should feel free to share that information with the Committee. He also said that since the CCP is not locked into a specific format, members should feel free to bring their own issues and ideas to the meetings. Finally, that the role of the CPP is advisory, to support the City Arborist in the performance of his job.
- d. David Lefcourt demonstrated the Tree Inventory database, for which he stored information on most of the city owned trees. He also reiterated (from the previous month's meeting) the list of city trees for which he is not responsible.
- e. A committee member inquired about canopy coverage, specifically how does Cambridge's canopy coverage compare with other cities. David L. said that there was a flyover in the summer of 2010 to take aerial photos of the city, but was unsure if canopy coverage was going to be calculated
- f. ADA Ordinance compliance: As sidewalks are made compliant with ADA accessibility regulations, there may be some tree loss. Where new sidewalks are installed, Dave Lefcourt works with contractors to minimize injury to trees.

#3: Update – Grant Opportunity at Main Library/Joan Lorentz Park

Dave Lefcourt said that he won't know until spring 2011 if the DPW will be awarded the grant. The grant request includes funds for labeling trees at the library (25 trees), developing an audio tour of the trees, possibly a booklet and a web site.

#4: CPP-sponsored Forestry publication

David Lefcourt and DPW would like to foster public concern for city trees by sending out a flyer to encourage residents to care for public trees and other plantings. Several committee members volunteered to form a subcommittee to develop the publication. The subcommittee's task is to come up with ideas to be communicated, and how to state those ideas. The DPW would help provide support for the development and distribution of the urban forestry publication.

#5: Review Client Tree Program

- a. Paula Cortes gave brief history about the Client Tree Program. David Lefcourt gave an update about how the program currently operates.
- b. Tree planting practices were discussed
- c. Also, whenever a tree is planted, a list of instructions about the tree care is hung on the doorknob of the abutting residence(s). David Lefcourt said that he would bring a copy of this 'door hanger' to the December meeting.

#6: Arborist Updates

- a. Review of Fall tree planting: David Lefcourt was working with the planting contractor to resolve some issues from the Fall planting season.
- b. The discussion about tree failure will continue at the December meeting.
- c. There will be a tree removal hearing on Thursday, December, Dec. 9th.

There wasn't time to address new business and other agenda items. Contact David Lefcourt with any questions or concerns.

Les Barber distributed copies of a map of the Cambridge Zoning Districts.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00PM.

NEXT MEETING: Because the Environment Committee meeting is the second Wed. and David Lefcourt has to be there, the next PPC meeting will be the third Wed., December 15th, 5:30 – 7:00.