

Cambridge Committee on Public Planting
Wed 10 March 2010
Minutes

1. Update on street tree planting

Tree contract bidding is about to open; contracts will be for one year with a second year option. Tree fund payments from Harvard, Lesley, and St James church development may be added. The FY10 goal was 500 trees to be planted; the total as of now is over 480. The FY11 goal is to plant 300 trees.

2. Update on street tree pruning

Pruning in Neighborhood 9, Strawberry Hill, Neighborhood 10 (elms), and will continue by neighborhood. The city's in house crews of two or three people are doing well.

A question was asked about what happens to the pruning chips; the City Arborist will investigate.

3. Update on park and cemetery pruning

Extra funds for pruning were located -- Hastings Square, Sidney/Allston park, Cambridge Cemetery are being pruned.

4. Update on the Street Tree Inventory

The inventory is ongoing. There are 586 empty tree wells and half of them have been checked for possible reuse. There are plenty of volunteers for the inventory, but organized, accurate data collection continues to be the issue.

5. Next meeting is at 5.30pm on Wednesday 14 April 2010 at 147 Hampshire street
During the summer, the committee will meet on W 6/30/10 for both June and July, and the September meeting will be held on the third Wednesday, 9/15/10, so as not to onflict with Rosh HaShanah.

6. New business and other agenda items

Several visitors, Ron Axelrod, Dennis Carlone, and Carol Winehouse, all urban planners, engaged the committee and City Arborist in a discussion regarding Massachusetts avenue plantings and sidewalks between Harvard and Porter squares. This seems like a good study area for experimenting with improvements. Two neighborhoods, 9 and Agassiz, have formed a six member resident group to organize and advovate. To date, they have contacted Lisa Peterson, Beth Rubinstein, Owen O'Riordan, and Sam Seidel, and will be contacting Sue Clippinger, Harvard, and Lesley.

The group would like input on trees and plantings per intersection and wants to create plans for the entire project. Communication regarding upcoming projects and Community Development Department input were offered.

There was an update on pests like winter moth and the Asian longhorn beetle, and a report on the new fencing and trees at Broadway, Main, and Third streets using the insurance monies