

Minutes of CPP Meeting –9/21/11

Members attending meeting: E. Axelrod, P. Cortes, D. Davis, C. Eide, D. Lefcourt, M. Hanlin, K. Kelley, M. McDowell, N. Phillips, F. Wescoat

Non-member attending: D. Heintze

The first item discussed was the city's response to Hurricane Irene. D. Lefcourt reported that 250-300 calls were received regarding tree damage. The storm occurred on a Sunday and by the following Friday most of the tree damage had been cleared. This included 20-25 big trees that came down; large broken branches were also removed, and small branch "hangers" are still being removed. David reported that Cambridge fared relatively well compared to other municipalities, in large part due to proactive tree care and pruning.

The next item was a discussion of the successful first season of the "Water by Bike" internship. Trees planted in the spring are looking generally quite good, due to plentiful rain and care provided by the intern. The intern watered newly planted trees where she had hydrant access, and also reached out to nearby homeowners to brief them on watering and tree care, so they could assume some of the necessary care. There has been very good community feedback to this program.

Questions arose about the status of ongoing projects:

- 1.) Large B&B trees left in front of Rindge & Latin HS that appear to be declining—Dave will speak with contractor
- 2.) DAWES traffic circle—crabapples were removed due to fire blight; Dave will check on replanting progress
- 3.) Tobin School—Why are there so many dead honeylocusts? Dave's responded that it's due to very poor soil conditions, and that this project is on his radar screen.

Next, Dave demonstrated the city's resistograph which is used to test for cavities and rot in city trees. The instrument is used periodically in deciding whether or not to remove trees that show little external evidence of decline.

Dave also presented a PowerPoint he prepared for a meeting in Cambridgeport that included street maps detailing existing trees and relative tree size. The presentation also included a spreadsheet analyzing tree density per neighborhood. One of the summer interns prepared the data, and she will be staying to do more work with the Urban Forestry Department.

Finally, a question came up concerning some small city trees that were blown over, and residents observed that the trees had been planted with burlap and cages still on. Dave's possible solution to this ongoing problem with contractors is to require them to bring him the correct number of cages correlating to the number of trees planted that day, as proof of proper planting techniques.

Before closing, it was suggested that we have a budget report at the next meeting.

Minutes submitted by F. Wescoat