

**Minutes of Cambridge Planting Committee
September 11, 2013
Submitted by: Emily Axelrod**

Arborist Report:

The Chairman requested a complete list of Committee members, including their contact info., date of joining Committee, date of term expiration.

- Action: DL to get from City Clerk for next meeting

Intern D. McGrath was introduced and has almost completed updating the tree inventory in parks and public spaces. Tree count is about 20,000, 13,000 of which are street trees.

DL introduced the mobile app for tree inventory, and the Committee suggested it include recommendations for tree replacement.

DL will also try and indicate locations for new trees in inventory.

The Committee discussed ways to improve effectiveness of gator bags, including putting an arrow or other indicator directly on bags to indicate where to put water.

The Committee requested that we are careful to plant adequate numbers of large shade trees on the streets rather than smaller ornamentals.

The Committee also discussed ways to improve the watering program, especially for young trees.

There was a brief discussion of the recent replacement of the London Plane Trees planted in front of the Fogg Museum, which died due to excessive heat at time of planting. They have now been replaced; cost is Harvard's.

The large beech at CPL was also discussed. DL predicts tree will die due to damage sustained during library construction.

Western Ave. planting was also discussed, and Committee felt large trees should be used there to form tall canopy, since there will be no overhead wires to interfere with trees, and large tree wells can be provided.

- Action: DL will bring in Western Ave. plans for Committee review. Committee should also review them on line.

There is also a new app., (I-report) for reporting problems to DPW. Can be accessed online.

Tree planting will start mid October, appx. 160 trees to be planted.

Pruning is also ongoing, by Northern Tree.

Public Watering of trees was discussed at length. It was agreed that interns on bikes is inadequate, and that the availability of the water wagon on a part time basis should be explored. City owns the truck already.

- Action: DL to check on water wagon availability, including hours currently used, amount of time potentially available for tree watering.
- Action: MH to find out original reason for purchase of truck; possible was intended for street trees.

Mass Ave Project:

Demonstration paving has been installed in front of 1692 Mass Ave

Committee discussed issues with tree grates throughout city. DL has a list of 400-500 that need to be removed. Committee would like to advocate more forcefully for prohibition on grates citywide.

Porous panels (Flexi-Pave) are being tested around the City, including JFK Street. To be discussed further.

- Action: DL to send out June meeting notes which include CPC questions on Mass Ave, and CPC to craft response on Mass Ave.
- Action: Emily A. to check with Ron on position of Mass Ave. Committee

Harvard Lampon has agreed to tree planting on island area.

- Action: DL to investigate street tree possibilities near community garden.

15-33 Richdale Ave:

Taja introduced the plans for Richdale development. Minimal planting is shown. CPC to review plans on line. Initial hearing at Planning Board scheduled for 9/17. A special permit will be required.

- Action: CPC to review plans on line and discuss again in Oct. meeting