

Cambridge Committee on Public Planting Minutes April 10, 2013

Discussed possible planting sites for 5 Lindens donated by the Cambridge Garden Club.

David suggested Front Park and Gore Street Park. Maggie will take David suggested locations to the Garden Club and advise. Dave is looking for more suggestions from the group to plant other trees.

Looked at the Mass Ave Demonstration Block - Dave Lefcourt presented plans which showed approx. 600 cu. ft. of structural soil per tree. Most trees will be supplied with grates that can be adjusted to fit the tree as it grows in the well. Other alternatives to protect trees were to surround the tree well with an 18" fence. Committee discussed safety issues in relation to the amount of pedestrian traffic in this area.

Florrie Wescoat (just back from Japan) talked about sidewalk planting beds in Tokyo. She has promised to send some photos of the beds to the group.

David Davis asked David Lefcourt to investigate the latest standards in tree well design as it relates to sidewalk construction.

Janet Burns asked if the structural soil has been improved over the soil of 10 years ago. For example the trees planted at the Baldwin School and at the Broadway Supermarket were planted with structural soil but the trees don't seem to be doing much better than the trees in Cambridge soil/clay.

We looked at the triangular square in front of the Lagoon Building/David Halberstam Square. Maggie Booz spoke about a meeting with the people at the Lagoon 3 years ago and about a contest for a redesign put out to Harvard students with some interesting ideas. There is a tradition of cutting trees down in that square and the group wondered about other planting options. Ellen Coppinger has 7 Sassafras proposed for installation. The Committee suggests that Ellen meet with and engage the Lagoon representatives in the design process.

David Lefcourt presented the Vassal Lane Plaza redesign. Contains grade changes, seating, and a hubway station. The only concern the group had was possible runoff from the berms.

We will discuss the tree planting list at the next meeting. David Lefcourt welcomes any suggestions to the list.