

## Committee for Public Planting meeting minutes 9 July 2014

Present: David Lefcourt (DL), David Davis, Gitte Venicx, Wayne Marshall, Florrie Wescoat, Kathy Kelly, Paula Cortes, Johan Paulsson, Maggie Booz, Nancy Phillips, Michael Hanlon, Carolyn Matthews, Chantal Eide

### General:

- Minutes of the May and June meetings were approved.
- We need a replacement for Taha Jennings, the representative from CDD. Catherine Woodbury had been sitting in, but is on vacation.

### Arborist Updates:

- 93 trees have been installed, a few too low, a few failing, DL making notes for contractor to repair or replace in Fall - too hot now.
- Fall planting list has 145 trees, 230 including Ash replacements and contractors, e.g. Huron A area.
- Pruning - Cambridge Landscape is working in Cambridgeport. Northern Tree is coming in a couple of weeks to work in 10-12 locations on pruning and removals.
- The EAB contract (injection and removal) is out to bid - should know by tomorrow.
- DL has put aside money for storm events - spending is staggered so funds are available throughout the year.
- We were on a 6 year pruning cycle but due to new trees, our cycle will be longer. The question is raised - if we had more funds, is this how we would spend them? DL comments that a 5-7 year pruning cycle is desirable. A letter of support is mentioned - see action item.
- Would newer equipment be desirable? Hand-held devices for the crew to update status as they go around the city?
- The EAB funding came - \$125K: \$75K for injections, \$25K for removal, \$25K for planting.
- NSTAR prunes every couple years, is moving to a 3-4 year cycle. David goes around before them and tells them what they can take and what they can't - he is more protective of our trees than other cities are.
- Water by bike - Kyle is back and is a good worker. An interview for another intern is scheduled for Friday.

### Goal setting:

- A discussion regarding goal setting was held. Goals from our 8/8/12 meeting were distributed. Many goals are ongoing tasks.
- Carolyn Matthews scribed ideas and will communicate them (see action items). Among the items mentioned were a mission statement by David Davis, species selection, identification of areas of the city that need rehabilitation, and how ADA requirements can be balanced with the need for street trees.

### Action Items:

- Michael Hanlon and David Davis will go to Owen O'Riordan to request a representative from CDD attend the Planting Committee meetings.
- DL will let us know what kind of letter of support would be helpful regarding more funds - e.g. if the budget were 10% larger, would he allocate more money to have a shorter pruning cycle?
- David Davis has agreed to share the mission statement he voiced during the meeting.
- Carolyn Matthews has agreed to type up the goals that were put on paper.
- Maggie Booz will ask Sandra Fairbanks for the Urban Agriculture Task Force information.
- David Davis will contact Kathy Watkins, City Engineer, regarding structural soil and size of planting beds, referencing a communication by Nina Bassuk.
- Kathy Kelly will look into the use of pesticides.
- DL will communicate the city accreditation forestry program.