

COMMITTEE FOR PUBLIC PLANTING

JUNE 11, 2014: Minutes

Minutes recorded by Carolyn Mathews

Present: Carolyn Mathews, E. Thomas Flynn, Vanessa Boukili (Earthwatch), Kathleen Kelly, Johan Paulsson, Chantal Eide, Florrie Wescoat, Nancy Phillips, David Lefcourt, Kathleen Caldera, Jonathan Lewis, Gitte Venicx, Owen O’Riordan, Catherine Daly Woodberry, Wayne Marshall

ARBORIST REPORT

- Tree planting started a week or so ago –it will be completed by the end of the month. David has make sure new locations are planted correctly. To date, only one tree has been planted incorrectly. Central Nurseries from Rhode Island is doing the work.
 - Tree planting on Huron Ave. will begin in the fall –the contract calls for 90-95 trees. Cambridgeport will get 24 trees. In total, Cambridge will have planted about 150 trees.
 - Cambridge Landscape will be tree pruning in Cambridgeport neighborhood. Northern Tree will begin tree pruning in the cemetery in the beginning of July.
 - Regarding upcoming development projects, Owen O’Riordan was asked if he knew who would be replacing Taha. He said that they’re really busy therefore they don’t have anyone yet.
 - David walked Pearl St with someone from Community Development regarding a survey of locations for installing tree wells and to determine how well the structural soil has been working.
 - There are some upcoming tree hearings (the EAB management plan) – regarding the health, removal and replacement of Ash trees (About 80-90 will be removed). David did the Ash tree inspections in winter when there were no leaves, so it was easier to see the damage.
 - The First meeting will be for East Cambridge and Area 4.
 - The second meeting will be for the mid-Cambridge area;
 - the third meeting will be for North and West Cambridge.
 - At those meetings, David will discuss reasons for the tree removals:
 - Why get rid of Ashes in particular? (Some Ashes have structural deficiencies which leave them in an unsafe condition).
 - What kind of Replacement tree? That hasn’t been determined yet. David will discuss options with abutters and local businesses.
 - David contacted Harvard University regarding the Plane trees across from new Fogg museum that failed: 7 or 8 trees on Quincy St, and one on Broadway. Reason for failure: the trees were planted last August so the heat killed them right away. Harvard needs to decrease the caliper size of new trees since it’s easier to get smaller tree established. David installs 2” - 2 ½ “ trees. He doesn’t want to use Plane trees because even the new Plane trees aren’t doing well this year.
 - Water bike interns –hiring recommendations have gone to City Hall. The interns will be on board in the next week or two. Their watering routes will be determined by nearness to hydrants for a given group of trees.
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EARTHWATCH: Dr.Vanessa Boukili

EARTHWATCH URBAN FOREST PROGRAM: This description is an edited transcription of Gitte's notes written in the May 2014 meeting minutes. Her explanation of this project describes it well and covers Dr. Boukili's presentation at the June meeting.

Earthwatch and Gitte have been working with David on measuring and assessing the trees throughout Cambridge. We are doing this through citizen science where we bring people from all walks of life out to map and measure the trees. These trees were first measured by David in 2008. The next set of data was collected in 2012, when we measured 5% of street trees in the city. In 2013 we measured all of the young trees, i.e. trees planted by David during his tenure as Cambridge Arborist.

Dr. Vanessa Boukili will present the results of these studies at the June meeting. All of the data collected can be viewed online at www.mytreetracker.org. More citizen science events are scheduled for this summer and fall; anyone is welcome to join and encouraged to bring friends. Contact Gitte gvenicx@earthwatch.org for more information or sign up online <http://earthwatch.org/expeditions/exploring-bostons-urban-forest>, with the promo code TREES.

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Earthwatch catalog description: Earthwatch.org/expeditions/exploring-bostons-urban-forest
