

CPP MEETING MINUTES: 7/12/17

PRESENT: Carolyn Mathews, Jonathan Lewis, Florrie Wescoat, Janet Burns, Paula Cortes, Maggie Booz, Nancy Phillips, Chantal Eide, John Nardone, David Lefcourt

ARBORIST UPDATE

Planting: The planting is ongoing and will be finished the week ending July 21st. 315 locations planted out of a total of 400.

Watering: There is a lot of watering going on. Three summer employees are handling tree watering. All the trees planted since last fall are being watered by contractors. The trees at New Street and Huron/Concord avenues are also being watered by contractors.

EAB: EAB traps have been attached to ash trees to determine if beetles are showing up anywhere. They've shown up in Newton, just past the Brookline border. This is the 3rd year of proactive treatments in Cambridge using TreeAzin which is trunk injected about 12" off the ground.

Miscellaneous: there have been tree removals in Danehy Park and the Cambridge Cemetery, and pruning in the Old Burial Ground.

249 THIRD ST DEVELOPMENT - PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION BY JAMES HEROYUX, LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT, COPLEY-WOLFF

Trees will be clustered where people tend to gather. The tree locations have been estimated and are subject to being moved. There will be 84 apartments and 6 townhomes as well as retail establishments and offices on the ground floor. The sidewalks are in disarray so sidewalks and curbs will be replaced. A pole for cable and phone will be moved across the street. The brick piers and iron fence on the North side will be retained. There's a large open space which will be used for a park. There'll be street parking for 2 cars although most of the parking will be across the street in an existing garage.

MITIGATION

Copley-Wolff will move electrical transformers and gas lines underground. They'll also remove PCB laden soil which is located where manufacturing used to take place. The soil will be excavated to 14 feet (about 650 truckloads) and taken to New Hampshire, Alabama and Vermont.

Bent and Third St.: The Third street trees, pears and Zelkovas which are 3 years old and planted at 3 inches, are in good health. They will add elms on Third St and swamp red maples on Bent St., caliper size 3"-3 ½ inches. They said Rogers St. is very tight.

Structural Soil:

The structural soil will extend the length of the sidewalks. They'll dig down 3 ½ to 4 feet. The tree wells, which meet city specifications, will be irrigated and the soil will incorporate nutritional material. Florrie questioned whether the nutrients will be sufficient and asked how long they will be available to tree roots.

PRESENTATION BY JIM SHEA AND JUDITH COQUILETTE

They were referred to the CPP by Jan Devereux. They live on Langdon St. and their concern is the Park in the middle of the street. The park is 150 years old, unique in the city, a place where people have gathered, walked their dogs, and relaxed. It's been deteriorating for the last 10 years. There used to be 3 trees but 2 of them died.

There have been problems which have contributed to the current state of the park. Large trucks have compacted the soil and created ruts where they have frequently driven over the end of the park. The owner of some multi-unit buildings used to collect trash with small trucks but now he uses very large trucks which overrun the park edges.

They had received a flyer on their cars notifying them, with one day's notice that the DPW was going to reduce the area of the park by 1/3. The DPW carried out that plan. The abutters and others who use the park were upset because they received insufficient notice, there was no input from the neighborhood, they disliked the renovation and the plan was one they would not have approved.

The DPW reduced both sides of the park by 3 – 4 feet and the curbs were raised so that they now interfere with access for the elderly and disabled. John Nardone said the DPW may have been hasty in the way it handled this project.

The residents are looking for thoughtful design, with input from the neighborhood, to bring it back to the loveliness of 150 years ago. They showed examples of other street parks in the city which they liked, e.g. the one at Brattle and Sparks St.

They met with the DPW on July 11. Ellen Coppinger has met with the city engineer to discuss preliminary considerations. The residents need to meet with the fire department to insure that the new plans are consistent with fire department requirements, have to provide handicapped access, decide to do with the bullnose, and perhaps remove some parking spaces to make room for the planned park extension.

There will be a meeting with the DPW in August at which, John said, the DPW will submit a plan they think will meet the requirements of all the stakeholders.

MASTER PLANNING

Owen O'Riordan is finishing the RFP so it can't be distributed until it's completed. Once the RFP is finished it will be emailed to CPP for evaluation.

The meeting was ended abruptly because of dangerous weather.

Submitted by Carolyn Mathews