

**Committee on Public Planting  
Minutes  
14 November 2018**

Members Present: Maggie Booz (co-Chair), Seanna Berry, Chantal Eide, Sophia Emperador, Michael Hanlon, Kathleen Kelly (minute-taker), Joan Krizack, David Lefcourt (Arborist), Ann MacAdam, Florrie Wescoat (co-Chair), Nancy Jordalen

Guests: Tom Berenetes (Hannacroix), Andrew Putnam, B. Stringer (Tocci Bulding Corp), Erik Thorkildsen (CDD), Karin Weller (Interior Design Inc.), Jim Wilcox (DPW Engineering) Jeff Hirsch (Urban Spaces, Developer), Jack Kelly (Bartlett Trees)

Construction and landscape plans for 29 Charles St. were presented by Tom Berenetes (Hannacroix), which entails the removal of a tree. After air spading, it was determined that substantial roots of a Zelkova at one corner have grown into the property. Because of the need to construct sheet piles around the perimeter to support the 2-story underground garage, the tree will need to be removed. However, Hannacroix proposes to increase canopy size via caliper size; they plan to plant eleven additional street trees, increasing the street trees count by 10 trees and the canopy by ~ 830 cu. ft. There is a contingency plan to replace other existing trees if they are damaged. The plan includes a courtyard-like landscaped, public-facing area with trees. Maggie Booz for the committee expressed approval. Types of trees to be planted were discussed (Zelkova, ginkgoes, maples, and birches). Florrie Wescoat suggested that oaks be planted instead of ginkgoes. CPP members requested that the developer make tree wells for street trees as large as possible, rather than the requirement of 8 x 3', and that structural soil be placed under the newly poured sidewalks.

DPW engineer Jim Wilcox reported on Humboldt Street, which is extremely narrow. Options for a shared space scheme in which vehicles and pedestrians share the road were discussed. A question was raised on how to go about requesting a review of a given street: one contacts Kathy Watkins (Longfellow Rd. and Winthrop St. were cited as examples of streets under review.) The committee discussed policies on planting trees with respect to homeowner's desires, followed by a brief discussion on general policies about tree planting.

The Committee reviewed the October minutes, which were accepted with emendations.

*Arborist Updates*

Fall planting is underway, and David Lefcourt hopes to finish soon. Around forty to fifty trees have already been planted. The committee discussed the best time to plant trees; Lefcourt cited research suggesting that spring-planted trees seem to fare better. However, lots of variables must be taken into account, such as weather. To start earlier in the fall would be beneficial, but to do so depends on from where trees are sourced and the weather. Currently trees are being purchased in NJ, and because they are grown south of MA they go into dormancy later than here, and are consequently dug later in the season. This presents scheduling problems for the delivery of trees and the Cambridge planting schedule.

The committee had a brief discussion on the Adopt a Tree site to make FAQs more user-friendly. It was acknowledged that the site had glitches, which must be addressed.

Erik Thorkildsen gave the CPP an update on the MXD project at Kendall Square. This entails the removal of a number of street trees, but the committee was assured that they will be largely replaced. The committee expressed some concerns about large buildings shading possible planting spaces, and indicated interest in seeing plans as they go forward.

The Envision Alewife plan was discussed with respect to making it a greener space. Lots of driveways in the “triangle” (through which Cambridge Park Dr. runs and dead ends) exist, which is a problem. However, one is to be turned into a “street” with sidewalks and trees. In the “quadrangle” (between Concord and, in part, Fawcett and the tracks beyond) a confusing connecting street network exists which needs to be addressed as well. The Envision plan would like to reconceive the Fresh Pond Mall shopping center as a “park” with a “main street” and add bio basins under the parking lot.