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Marc Welch, Beth Wilkinson, Barbara Darnell, Elizabeth Sockwell, Julia Malakie, Julie Winslett, Howard Birnbaum, Laura Petrillo, Ruth Goldman

Updates:

Forestry Update:

Grinding stumps is finishing up today. Miscellaneous places that require work on quiet mornings on Saturday. Started planting trees this week. Delivery of trees a week from Monday. Full speed ahead on city planting. 500 trees from now through November. Assist the Newton Tree Conservancy with their Fall plantings of around 100 trees.

JM: Is two separate deliveries unusual?

MW Less trees this year than the last couple of falls. It's a scheduling thing with the nursery. On our truck this time. The delivery company goes to Springfield, Newton, Boston and on our stop Fair Haven gets trees and they get their trees. And a guy who runs a private tree business also gets some trees. 800 trees on a truck.

Concern in the future: Lots of federal funding for tree planting, but there might be an availability problem. If the tree nurseries don't have the trees, then they don't have the trees. Want to find a way to set up a solid long-term agreement with the nurseries.

100% believe in and want to do bare root trees, but there's only two nurseries who use the bare root trees.

JM: Can you explain why?

MW: Bare root trees have substantially more tree roots, establishes itself to the site more quickly and adapts more quickly to the site. That's the biological preference and also a big human error problem is planting depth, so bare root is easier for tree production methods. Bare root takes the tree out of the ground and shakes the tree, so you maintain more of the roots.

BD: Disadvantage is that nurseries can't hold bare root trees, so they need to be harvested when the trees are still somewhat dormant.

MW: Bigger time frame issue. Most nurseries care about money and production. Growing conditions are less compatible with bare root trees. Where we buy the bare root from in Buffalo NY the soil is rocky and so the dirt falls off the tree roots easily.

HB: What are the reasons for other types of trees?

MW: Other trees are easier to move around, plant, and purchase. Ball and burlap method is less expensive. The bareroot tree usually grows faster than the ball and burlap method. Availability issues because of economic problems 2007-8, so the nurseries slowed down.

BW: What would benefit the tree nursery by agreeing to a longer term with you?

MW: We do a deal twice a year with them, so we are already regulars, so there wouldn't be some benefit outside better cooperation and business. We buy a lot of their stock every year. We'll see.

RG: I looked at those federal tree grants and Boston got a huge one. A bunch of smaller Envi Justice cities got them as well. Boston gets a lot of money, but I don't know what that translates into in the city. Many issues around federal programs. Heat pump issue— not enough and not

enough installers. What are some solutions? It's gonna be a problem because Boston got one of the biggest grants.

MW: We'll see. It's unclear now what will happen. It would take a while for nurseries to increase their capacity over the next 7-10 years. We're one nursery going out of business away from not having a source of bare root trees.

JM: What are the other nurseries that do bare root trees?

MW: Schichtel's Nursery (Chestnut Ridge) and we used to buy from another in Buffalo Concord's Nursery. There's another that won't sell in the Spring, only in the Fall.

BW: Miyawaki forest people are looking for places to buy trees.

MW: Springfield gets big grants. Springfield grows its own trees.

BW: Does Speak for the Trees do a certain type of tree? (Speak for the Tree is the contractor for the USDA grant.)

MW: Not sure. Not sure what the city of Boston in general is doing. SFTT got a lot of money for Springfield.

RG: USDA form is a bit confusing in terms of where the money is allocated.

MW: Springfield applied for a crazy amount of money, \$40 million, I think.

ES: When applying for a grant does a city or org need to state where they will source the trees?

MW: The money won't be seen till after they receive the grant so I don't think that cities and organizations have to specify where they will purchase the trees. Purchasing laws for municipalities are very specific. Maybe the state could pay nurseries to grow their trees and it might have to be out of state. Bigelow nursery in Northboro. Generally can't go out and buy land to grow trees on. Not economically feasible. Not going to cover the loan cost.

BW: Is it a bad idea to get trees from another region?

MW: Yes, it's a good idea to buy a tree in your "hardiness zone." For example: Flowering dogwood. Either here or in Florida. If you buy one from Florida it might not flower here, nor grow well here. Bare root nurseries: Oregon and other states, but the hardiness has to line up. Probably could get away with it.

Street Tree Removal Requests:

MW: We had the hearing, which ended in rejections to remove trees to both locations: Hartman Rd and Walnut St are going to ask to submit an objection letter and request for tree removal to the mayor.

JW: When would the mayor grant an appeal?

MW: Historically most times than not she says "too bad, the trees stay." Generally if it is an accessibility issue or a safety issue then that is a triggering piece. You might remember a big Sugar Maple, not a good sidewalk, made it inaccessible. When there's a concern with accessibility, then they might cut down the tree to comply with the American Disability Act.

MW: Received a new one yesterday. Builder for a driveway on 7 Stonewood Dr. Average Norway Maple causing issues on a sidewalk in front of a brand new driveway.

BD: I'm obsessed with Walnut St trees. Do you know who the builder is? 1149 walnut

MW: I can tell you who the contractor is... the architect came to the last Highlands council meeting and said they can put in. REYCON is a project management company.

Tree Ordinance Review Update

BW: Let's go through tree ordinance updates.

MW: Dept has taken straw votes, information and will draft an updated revised ordinance to create the new language that programs and services will review again. Then they will decide to vote it out of the committee.

HB: Where did the committee come out in terms of the size of the trees?

JM: Vote on "nexus question" if there is construction on the lot, the tree ordinance applies. I thought it was supposed to apply to developers wherever the tree is located.

MW: If someone applied for a tree permit and removed it because they wanted to. And then two years later, if they come in for a building permit, wanting to do an addition. If they removed the tree on the lot years proper, the question is will they be required to replace the tree that is not part of the larger project.

JM: Pam Wright was against tree nexus. Bill Humphrey abstained. The straw vote extended to six months, there was a split in votes. Some in favor of extending, others not. Lower to significant trees. Pam Wright wanted to lower to 25 inch, Marc said 40 inch was comfortable, but not lower. Vote was reduced 40 to 25, only Pam Wright in favor 7 against.

MW: I think our intention is to encourage, if not require, a certain percentage of native trees to replace old trees. Usually, if they choose to plant on site, they are planting Oak trees.

JM: Everything's changing with climate change. Things that once were native, might not be. For now our definition is native to North America.

BW: What's New England might change. North America hopefully not.

MW: Projects are generally a year to two year, we tell them to plant same to similar species—Oaks, Maples, Elms

HB: Why should we be excited about the new ordinance?

MW: The language in the potentially new revised version is potentially going to be a big difference. The trees that are being saved. The requirement to have very clear plans from a certified arborist that they are expected to adhere to. They can now be liable for damaging abutter's trees. Number of tree inches that will require tree replacement is significant. Required to get a permit to replace trees. Better oversight from the city. Once trees go in the ground that the builder has planted, that tree is protected. If a builder builds a home, plants the trees, then sells it. The new homeowner cannot cut it down without having to replace it. Requires builders to engage early on with professional arborists. They start to learn the value of the trees and respect the trees. It's a dramatic increase of tree protections in terms of what is there now.

JM: For the ordinance will apply, what will a builder be paying or planting now?

MW: Let me give an example: a 30 inch tree, they have to replace 45 inches on the site. It's about \$8,000-\$9,000. Our cost. Environmental cost. Maintenance cost. \$250/inch as of today. By the time the new ordinance passes it will be in January. Right now we haven't settled on the environmental cost. We will continue to reference the Arbor Day Foundation cost of a tree. We will generate a new cost per inch. One requirement is to publish annually the cost per inch.

HB: Can we use itree to change the value of a tree?

MW: Think about itree as well to incorporate different aspects of tree value and adjusting it based on that. Law department is going over all of this as well and an agreement will be made upon the value of a tree. Over time, with a more mature tree, there is a net gain in environmental value, offset of Co2, pollutant removal, etc. Now people have to plant large trees when they are cutting down large trees.

JM: What about the cost of trees in Cambridge? \$800/tree is more expensive.

MW: Cambridge is a different ballpark. Newton developers usually are upset over having to pay \$250/tree but then I tell them the price per tree in Cambridge. Yet these are different areas. Newton developers are not as large as the ones in Cambridge. Widely recognized method of value to tree is appraisal method. We can't put values on trees that exceed the landscape appraisal method. Perhaps we need to pick one value method or another, still deciding.

RG: It will shift the heat island affect data, urban forestry data, and sometimes it's not about Newton and our tree ordinance. If our regulation isn't defensible, then an organization can come in and push back against our method of environmental regulation. Law department needs to look at our tree ordinance. The standards might keep changing, and with increasing coverage on heat island effect, then the value of a tree might increase.

BW: Howard, did you have a dollar amount that you found for health issues? That would be interesting to know. How much would it add?

HB: I looked at itree. They were using environmental protection agency calculations that were dated. They were not looking at specific methodologies. 10-15% increase in an itree number. Seemed like it was worth including it when making calculations.

MW: Let's say we up it by 20% it might make a difference over time.

HB: Objective is to make people think about how necessary it is to cut down trees. It's getting people to think twice about cutting down trees.

JM: We'd rather keep the tree than get the money.

MW: I don't want the money. We want the trees to remain.

RG: I think the importance will be around equity, justice and the heat island effect. Trees to mitigate heat island effect. How much does canopy add to cooling the air? Heat is the number one killer of people in a warming climate. Look at Phoenix. It's all about tree planting. USDA Grant to spend money on trees.

MW: Following big federal grants towards these big urban areas, then they will have improved these tree canopies in these areas. This will be researched for the next 30 years.