

# Urban Tree Commission

## Meeting Minutes - Friday, January 18, 2019 City Hall, Rm 205

Present: Marc Welch, Julia Malakie (beginning only), Amy Sangiolo, Beth Wilkinson; Guests: Michele Cruz, Bill Hoch, Rena Getz, Jonathan Yeo, Yasodhara Paruchuru.

### Forestry update

Addressing service requests as they come in.

Tree work in parkland since ground is frozen w/o snow.

Some proactive street tree pruning planned during Feb, March, maybe early April.

Risk tree removing next spring thru Sept.

Budget meetings start 2 weeks from now.

AS: anticipating snow work this weekend? MW: not expecting bad wind. Depends on whether heavy icing. Best case is lot of sleet that doesn't stick to trees. Will have staff on.

RG question on structural pruning? MW: means pruning young & medium size trees for structure to help in future. Not able to do that now. Mature tree pruning is for dead limbs, safety. Lot to do from 40+ years past first, before we can do structural pruning on young trees. But getting closer to be able to discuss that w/exec office. Planting 600 trees/year internally, will need pruning in about 3 years.

AS question: is planting plan available? MW: on website in CIP. Going into 3rd FY following survey of trees vs empty spots. Need to update plan, hopefully in next FY, because of changes in need. NTC planting 200/yr, planting in a snow route could change that route's priority from year 6 to year 10. Ordinance plantings will also affect need for area. AS question on coordination w/NTC? MW very close coordination.

### Removal request

10 Mignon Rd - MW doesn't believe they plan to appeal.

### Phase 3 Solar

JY: were 30 or so questions from City Council 2 nights ago, Marc helping on a number of tree-related ones. Will be answering those.

Program very much revised from original to reduce tree impacts. Working w/Marc where there are impacts.

MW will be picking species and locations for replacement trees. Some have young trees they hope can be moved.

BW: at some point when we get down to last 15 trees, doesn't pay to lie down in front of truck.

Worries about all the knotweed in CSP, not letting successor trees grow. Volunteers can only do so much to control. Wants to save forest. Weigh where efforts best go.

JY: very concerned about conservation area. MW & Jennifer Steel going to be looking at that as part of budget process, where they can bring in contractors. Suggests get involved in budget process, note areas that should be worked on.

BW: removing Albemarle as solar site one of best things they did. Is against Library tree removal for historic reasons more than tree reasons.

AS: big question from Julia memo. Who is responsible for paying & removal, replanting work?

JY: solar contractors will pay. Not sure if Forestry will do work or if they're busy, contractors, but will be under Marc's supervision.

AS: what's period of maintenance for the trees? MW: you can make anything live one year. For this project, expect longevity, but haven't worked out details. Expect to water & maintain for 2 growing

seasons. AS: but you won't be maintaining them unless they pay you? JY: still working out details. If we water, contractor should pay for that.

AS: Marc's time is already filled. BW: it's Marc's crew that filled. JY: if we need to hire additional help, we will. AS doesn't want it to be on city's dime. How does contract work? Council voted to authorize negotiations. Will they get to vote on actual contract? JY: don't think they did on earlier phase ones.

AS thinks we got burned on Ameresco at Rumford Ave. Had to go back and negotiate with Ameresco if they would pay for fence to screen neighbors.

MW: assuming gas leak is fixed, would plant replacement trees for Library removals along Homer St. Probably not on City Hall grounds as they're trying to follow Olmstead design. Would look to streets in immediate vicinity of Library. Walnut, further down Homer, not sure how far would have to go.

AS: where would Library's moved trees go? MW: some would go to City Hall grounds, Homer St near City Hall. Neither JY nor MW convinced gas leak fixed.

AS: for moved trees, will Ameresco guarantee survival? MW they have some specs that follow industry standards, company that moves trees, they're certified arborists. AS can this committee see the specs? MW: yes.

(JY has to leave.)

MW: Assessment of City Hall property done around 15 years ago by open space coordinator. From historic landscape perspective didn't always follow Olmstead. Would never remove trees but going forward want to follow Olmstead.

Q about library former forest where parking is now. MW: Olmstead plan did not include Library. And in Olmstead plan pond side of City Hall was supposed to be densely planted, blocking view of City Hall from street & vice versa. That was never done. Many species in Olmstead plan were invasive.

AS: we're not using landscape architect to advise us? MW no, not that complicated. Conservation Commission may have conditions.

AS: Parking lot ordinance requiring trees we're clearly not following. Is city exempt?

MW: much of what's in Julia's questions is what councilors asked

AS will send digital version to all committee members

BW: differentiate between what's done by individuals vs organization

BW: \$\$ MW gets for doing these trees won't be enough to hire another crew. MW: cost of contractor is 4x city cost. AS: don't want to add staff unless we know MW needs more staff. MW: last budget did not get new staff but got \$\$ for tree and overtime.

### **UTC Membership**

MW always recommends people come to a couple of meetings first. Mayor's office trying to find people to fill open slots.

YP applied last year, inquired again a month ago. MC applied 10 months ago but not heard back. BW thinks they're just getting started on UTC appointments. Just heard about her renewal pending since July. Bill Hoch has applied.

Meeting adjourned.