

Urban Tree Commission

Meeting Minutes

Friday, February 16, 2018, 7:45 a.m.

City Hall Room 205

Present: Jess Barton, Julia Malakie, Barbara Smiley, Beth Wilkinson, Marc Welch, Amy Sangiolo.

Absent: Bob DeRubeis, Francesca Piper Koss.

Guests: Mayor Fuller and Sachiko Isihara (Executive Director, Suzuki School of Newton)

Message from Mayor Fuller

- Mayor Fuller just wrapped up meeting with department heads to see what they need to go to the next level. She will present the budget in mid-April.

Forestry Department Update

- Pruning and stump grinding are the main focus this part of the year, but they were somewhat constrained by the snow in January. Anticipate staying with stump grinding for the next few weeks.
- April: will be the spring planting season.
- Nahant Park: still clearing off some trees there so there is a meadow for the birds.
- May: risk tree survey begins.
- In the next year to year and a half the ordinance planting will wind down. It is up to the new budget for what comes next.
- Tree removal at 62 Wiswall Road.

Urban Forest/Open Space

- Question is how to make a quantitative definition/ an overall definition of "greenness" in Newton.
- There is an open space plan from a few years ago, which has a good inventory.
 - Needs to be revised in 2020 so planning for it will start soon.
- Will email Doug Greenfield to see if we can get statistics on Newton's green space.
- Will continue this discussion next month.

Suzuki School of Music

- Suzuki School purchased the Staples-Craft Farm property in Waban. They went through the review plan with the city and main concern was number of parking spots. Suzuki Music School hired a civil engineer and architect to help work this out. The site plan was proposed and accepted by the City.

- Suzuki School is interested in saving the two large trees that are currently slated for removal for to accommodate parking spaces.
- We looked at the site plan and examined where the two trees are and where the parking lot will be. Marc suggested the school consult a specialist from a tree company to get a tree plan to first see whether the trees are healthy and worth saving and, if so, the best way to do so.

New Business

- Voted to write short letter to Mayor Fuller that expresses support for the tree planting plan, support for the continuation of increased plantings and tree related funding moving forward.

Approval of minutes

- The minutes of the January, 2018 meeting were approved by voice vote.

Meeting adjourned