

Urban Tree Commission

Meeting Minutes

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

City Hall Room 205

Present: Barbara Darnell, Julia Malakie, Beth Wilkinson, Marc Welch.

Absent: Bob DeRubeis, Francesca Piper Koss, Jess Barton, Amy Sangiolo, Barbara Smiley.

Forestry Report

- There were over 1,000 reports of tree damage from 3 storms, which is the highest volume in 20 years. In the first storm, 40 trees were uprooted due to wind; the second storm had the most damage due to the wet snow that fell. The mayor reported that 90 trees were completely lost. Forestry will grind the stumps and need to let the snow melt to assess any additional damage not previously seen.
- The tree damage in all storms combined cost \$650-800K.
- There is an enormous amount of tree debris that has piled up on Elliot St.
- Cyrus is back, on light duty for a few weeks until fully recovered.
- The Forestry budget will be presented in early April.
- Ordinance money is declining.
- Tree preservation fund has gone from \$600K to \$200K.
- (A new log truck will be purchased with Tree Ordinance money; the new bucket truck will come from operating expenses)
- The mayor seems supportive of Parks & Rec budget
- Planting: 800-900 trees are on a watering schedule
- Storm cleanup is impacting spring schedule; Marc hopes to have NUF's spring trees planted in the 2nd week in April.
- Trees are blocking the pathways in Cold Spring Park & along the Cochituate aqueduct
- The neighbors object to the tree depot on Elliott St

New Business

- Good to have a body within the City to help with Policy & Guidance

Meeting Adjourned