

## **Urban Tree Commission**

Meeting Minutes

Friday, April 20, 2018, 7:45 a.m.

City Hall Room 205

Present: Jess Barton, Barbara Smiley, Beth Wilkinson, Barbara Darnell, Marc Welch.

Absent: Bob DeRubeis, Francesca Piper Koss, Amy Sangiolo, Julia Malakie.

### Approval of February & March meeting minutes

- Minutes approved by voice vote

### Forestry Department Update

- March saw highest volume of downed trees in at least past 20 years.
  - Department continuing with cleanup.
  - Got some extra money for contract tree removal and checking on trees.
- Spring plantings will take place soon. Will plant 70-100 trees, which will primarily be homeowner service requests where the homeowner will be responsible for watering the trees.
- Newton Tree Conservancy (“NTC”) will plant about another 100 trees.
- Budget: gained about 400 trees for planting. This will result in a total of around 800 trees planted (including the NTC trees). The tree planting funds will now come from the operating fund instead of the ordinance money.
- Newtonville Avenue storage facility will likely get tree permit soon.
- Library trees and solar panels:
  - Some of the trees on the property are in peril again.

### Damage to trees from mowers & trimmers in the parks

- The extent of the issue is unknown.
- When new damage occurs people could bring the issue to Bob DeRubeis as it is in their contracts not to damage the trees when mowing the grass.

### Plow damage

- Trees were damaged this winter by sidewalk plows and street plows.
- Some of the issue may have been from the ground not being frozen over during the first big storm.
- Could keep track of the number of trees that are lost from damage and the cost of trying to save them.

### Meeting adjourned