

Urban Tree Commission

Meeting Minutes

Friday, April 21, 2017, 7:45 a.m.

City Hall Room 205

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

Absent: Bob DeRubeis, Francesca Piper Koss.

Approval of minutes

The minutes of the March, 2017 meeting were approved by voice vote.

Forestry Department Update

- It is now the spring planting season and in the next two or so weeks, Forestry and the Newton Tree Conservancy will plant about 200-300 trees. On the city's side, the fall planting tends to be more trees than the spring season.
- Once planting is done, the at risk tree removal process will take place until the fall.
- Budget: the Forestry operating budget is up \$100,000, but this current fiscal year there was a special appropriation of money (for tree and stump removal), so some of the special appropriation became part of the operating budget.
- Trees are part of the conversation for the "Complete Street" process.
 - Adams Street project: plantings will take place in the fall.

Newsletter

- The spring UTC newsletter was finalized and was posted to the UTC webpage and distributed in the afternoon.

Developer Tree Removal Requests

- Driveways that are placed too close to trees end up killing the trees.
- It is unclear what the size of the problem is at this point because we only know of those who end up getting a tree removed.
- It is mostly developers who are causing this issue, but it could be worth getting the city actors to get on board with us in assessing the site for the permit.
- There is an ordinance that if doing construction under a public shade tree you need a permit, but nobody actually gets a permit.
- 1110 Chestnut Street: developer cut down without a permit, will need to file a permit, but have not heard from them yet. Inspectional Services shut them down for now since they exceeded the scope of the permits issued to them.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned.