

Urban Tree Commission

Meeting Minutes

Friday, May 19, 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 April, 2017 meeting were approved by voice vote.

Forestry Department Update

- Forestry Department received more money in the budget for this year, but, unless something unforeseen happens, that should be in lieu of getting extra money for contracting.
- Forestry Department is still looking to fill a vacant position.
- Finished with the spring planting. About 300 trees planted between Forestry Department and Newton Tree Conservancy. They should finish with the Angier Tree Ordinance mitigation this fall and then start with Zervas trees after that.

New Business

Tree removals:

- Angier Beech tree. It is on private property. The plans do not show the tree coming down, but people think it will come down.
- 16-26 Dalby Street. There are plans for a new condo development and there are two trees on the berm in front of #16, which were planted by the Newton Tree Conservancy in 2014. These trees will likely need to be removed under the current plans, and the question is whether the trees can be moved, possibly to another spot on the same street. The Forestry Department has previously moved trees a couple of times and will look into the possibility for these two trees. At the special permit hearing for the project there were lots of objections to the proposed project.
- There are currently about 10,000 or so planting sites around the city. The goal is to have around 30,000 to 35,000 street trees in the city and we are probably around 20,000 right now.
- Beacon Street sidewalk project and Adams Street project. Originally a smaller number of trees requested for removal, but now the number has climbed. All the trees on Adams Street will now be removed. Forestry will be putting together a package for the fall Adams Street planting.
- Parkview trees (part of the Cabot School project)
- DPW leafleted addresses on Beacon Street and Marc got a lot of phone calls asking for special requests when the trees are replanted.

- Intersection in Oak Hill, Carlson Avenue, Brookline Street, Nahanton Street, and Dedham Street. Twenty-eight inch Oak is at Nahanton and Dedham and is slated for removal. Three street trees on Carlson Avenue will be impacted and a honey locust on an island will also be impacted.
- Motion to invite DPW Commissioner McGonagle to our next meeting in order to discuss the construction projects and their impacts on the city's trees.

Cold Spring Park and Newton parks in general:

- Some of the trees at Cold Spring were cored and it was determined they are very old, but since the ground is covered in Buckthorn (which covers the ground and prevents new trees from growing) there are not any new seedlings so when the old trees eventually die, they may not be replaced by new trees and our parks will lose their trees.
- The Conservators are pulling Buckthorn at a section of Cold Spring.
- The UTC has been successful at focusing on public and private trees, but maybe we can try to focus on park trees as well.

Other:

- Tree mapping software did not end up working out how it was envisioned, but Marc will follow up with the city's GIS person to see if there are any updates as the technology may have evolved.
- The city's sewer cleaners damaged a tree in front of a member's house and it could be helpful to get a message out to city employees to be careful about trucks and construction materials as the trees are city property.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned.