

Urban Tree Commission

Meeting Minutes

Friday, October 20, 2017, 7:45a.m.

City Hall Room 205

Members present: Jess Barton (chair), Julia Malakie, Barbara Smiley, Beth Wilkinson, Marc Welch, Barbara Darnell.

Members absent: Bob DeRubeis, Francesca Piper Koss, Amy Sangiolo.

Approval of minutes

The minutes of the July, August, and September, 2017 meetings were approved by voice vote.

Forestry Department Update

- Crew transitioning to Fall work
- 500 trees to be planted this Fall (including NTC trees) mostly near Angier, the Rt 9 corridor & Highlands playground
- The bulk of the 2017 tree plantings will be in the Fall
- Starting Spring 2018, Forestry will begin a 'resident watering' program for tree plantings, with 50-75 participants
- The backlog for individual tree requests is ~1200, but some requests are very old
- Forestry receives ~70 requests for trees/year, but this has increased as removal work has increased
- Marc noted that there are 10-20 resident plantings/year
- 2018 Budget: Funds were requested for a new bucket truck & possibly a log truck
- Newton now has 74 trees/mile & a target of 100 trees/mile (Brookline has 112 trees/mile)

2018 Plans

- Membership: we have many openings
- Amy Sangiolo will participate as a private citizen
- Ann Canaro
- NTC email list
- Reappoint Jess as chair
- Tree Manual update: current edition is adequate
- Utility pruning led to the '94 Task Force, 5 years after City axed its tree crew
- Forestry is continuing its Kids Education program on trees for 3rd graders
- Community Forester: Hope to establish a Community Forester position to organize an education program & assist with Community Tree plantings
- Tree Inventory: combined City & volunteer effort
- 20,000 trees - 12,000 plantable spots

Gas Leaks

- Another opportunity to contact DPU
- Coordinate with Mothers out Front
- Check with Donnalyne Kahn on state of city's agreement
- Julia to send a response

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned.