

## **Urban Tree Commission**

Meeting Minutes

Friday, November 17, 2017 7:45 a.m.

City Hall Room 205

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

Absent: Bob DeRubeis, Barbara Darnell, Francesca Piper Koss, Amy Sangiolo.

### Approval of minutes

- The October, 2017 meeting minutes were approved by voice vote.

### Forestry Department Update

- About 400-430 trees will be planted by the end of the month as the fall tree plantings are wrapped up. This is the total number with the Newton Tree Commission trees included.
- Once the plantings are done, will transition to stump grinding and then pruning and tree care for the winter.
- New bucket truck process has begun and is going through the city council process right now.
- Open space/public property trees hypothetical question
  - Could have separate tree crew to care for these trees.
  - Would be higher priority to have another tree crew for the street trees.
  - About 8,000 – 10,000 park trees need to be managed and about 20,000 street trees.
  - Forestry already cares for the school property and other areas as needed.
- Planting increased this year.
- Budget: in a few years the tree ordinance fund may be depleted, so need to look forward to city budget covering the costs of purchasing new trees. Right now about 250 trees per planting cycle are city purchased, the other are NTC and ordinance money.
- Tree ordinance: October and November have been really busy for tree ordinance work. Already at 30 more permits at this point than last year.

### 2018 Planning

- Goal of increasing membership. NTC email and mention at tree planting.
- TAB article: about plantings, maybe talk about new watering program.
  - A “whose tree is that” feature with a picture of a tree and where it is. Identify cool city trees.
  - What is the urban forest article.
- Maybe have a spot at the library with pictures and info.

### New Business

- Utility line clearance complaint; Marc checked it and it seems like they are complying with the proper clearance around the lines.
- Utility company seems to have done all Newton circuits so from here on out is should be less noticeable when they prune around the lines because it will be mostly maintenance work.