

Urban Tree Commission

Meeting Minutes

Friday, December 15, 2017, 7:45 a.m.

City Hall Room 205

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

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

Approval of minutes

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

Forestry Department Update

- 560 trees planted in 2017 - total of Urban Forestry & Newton Tree Conservancy plantings
- Forestry will transition back to stumps now for the winter, as snow allows
- Forestry will potentially prune paths in Oak Hill Park this winter
- Clearing branches from street lights are predominantly service call oriented
 - -LED lights cast a different shadow than incandescent street lights
- Forestry has a new bucket truck
- Tree ordinance money is winding down without infusions of money from other projects.
- Forestry is down a worker due to injury
- Marc hopes Forestry will start counting open planting sites, but it may take a year.

New Business

Tree Law:

- MA rule (based on English Law): what's on your land is yours, what's on your neighbor's land is theirs. Municipal elections trees include Street & Park trees
 - -There is a case before the SJC which may change the rule
- The MA Tree Wardens sponsored an update to MGL 87 which stated:
 - -MA Tree Wardens should need qualifications
 - -Ability for the state to change regulations by DCR
 - -the update was sponsored by Senator Creem & Representative Hecht (Watertown)

2018 Meeting Dates

UTC has room 205 reserved @ 7:45am throughout 2018. Our meeting dates are:

Jan 19
Feb 16
Mar 16
Apr 20

May 18

Jun 15

July 20

Aug (open)

Sep 21

Oct 19

Nov 16

Dec 14 (the 3rd Friday is Dec 21 so reserved a week earlier)

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned.