

Tree Planting Committee
Tuesday, March 5, 2019 5:15 PM
Brookline Town Hall, Room 408

Committee Members Present: Nadine Gerdts (Chair), Liz Erdman, Hugh Mattison

Committee Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Tom Brady, Katie Weatherseed

Guests Present: See attached list.

AGENDA REVIEW/MINUTES

N. Gerdts called the meeting to order. H. Mattison suggested a minor revision to the December 12, 2018 minutes.

H. Mattison made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. L. Erdman seconded. All in favor.

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion of tree tags

N. Gerdts stated that she hasn't had an opportunity to do more research on tree tags. She asked K. Weatherseed to send her the specifications of the signs used by the Planning Department throughout Town.

Discussion of website layout and configuration

L. Erdman discussed several ideas for updating the website. She referenced Brookline's Climate Action webpage as an effective example of a webpage with graphic buttons. She suggested adding a FAQ section to the Trees homepage, as well as a link to the Back of Sidewalk Program, success stories, tree care links, and pictures of "trees we love". The Committee also discussed the possibility of starting a hashtag on Instagram. L. Erdman said she would bring some links and success stories to the next meeting, and T. Brady added that he could then set up a meeting with Ben Vivante.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion of tree planting requests

T. Brady stated that his office received two Back of Sidewalk requests, one at 21 Longwood Avenue and the other at 210 Harvard Street United Parish. He added that he will distribute the complete list with suggested locations and species after the snow melts so that the Committee members may go and inspect the proposed sites. K. Weatherseed will inform N. Gerdts when a conclusion is made regarding location and species, so that N. Gerdts can then approach the homeowners.

Discussion of Planning Board guidelines for tree planting on major impact projects

The Committee members reviewed the Planning Board guidelines on major impact projects and N. Gerdts suggested that final plans for street tree plantings should be subject to the review of the Tree Warden and the Department of Public Works and the Tree Planting Committee. N. Gerdts stated that she would like

to invite Blair Hines to come and speak with the Committee about the Planning Board guidelines and how they were developed.

Discussion of potential tree “purchasing” program

N. Gerdtz stated that she recently received an email from a citizen who suggested a program to support the planting of trees in Town by suggesting certificates for donations to the tree planting fund. N. Gerdtz suggested donation tiers and donor levels. The Committee agreed that they would ideally like to avoid making more work for staff. L. Erdman suggested tying in the donation process with the “Trees” Brookline webpage. N. Gerdtz suggested possibly using the tree tag design with the certificate. T. Brady proposed a tree adoption program as an alternative. L. Erdman suggested monthly email updates to people who take part in the tree adoption program, informing citizens about general care (ie. tree watering instructions, etc.) .

Tom Nutt-Powell, associated with the All Saints Episcopal Church, was present to share with the Committee the Church’s plan for Arbor Day. He stated that his church is working with the Arbor Day Foundation where people can buy 3-5 foot trees. The trees would be delivered to All Saints Church, where people would come and pick them up, in addition to enjoying brochures and activities that educate people about trees. The opportunity for purchasing trees will be extended to members of other churches and synagogues in Town. T. Nutt-Powell stated that he wanted to inform the Committee. The Committee expressed their support of the program.

STAFF UPDATE

T. Brady stated that he held a meeting last Wednesday to discuss the findings of the assessment on the trees that line Russett Road. H. Mattison stated that he was in attendance and the Powerpoint that T. Brady presented, particularly the pictures of each tree, were very helpful. T. Brady stated that in regards to replacement, all the trees removed on the non-wire side will be replanted and he anticipates a number of back of sidewalk applications to be submitted.

T. Brady added that the spring tree shipment should be arriving on the 3rd or 4th week of March. He is hoping to plant approximately 400-450 trees.

N. Gerdtz requested that K. Weatherseed send the spreadsheet of planting locations to the Committee again.

T. Brady informed the Committee on the upcoming Woodland Road traffic project, in which the Town will convert existing asphalt roadway to a sidewalk with landscape granite curbing. He added that this work will not affect the root zone.

H. Mattison asked whether he should ask for the current landscape plan for 20 Boylston Street. T. Brady discussed the changes that are proposed for the design and what was previously agreed upon.

ADJOURN

L. Erdman made a motion to adjourn. H. Mattison seconded. All in favor.

Minutes prepared by Katie Weatherseed