

Tree Planting Committee
Tuesday, April 30, 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. N. Gerdts reviewed the agenda. The Committee reviewed the minutes from March 5th, 2019.

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

DISCUSSION OF PLANNING BOARD GUIDELINES

M. Zarrillo was present from the Planning Board to discuss the Planning Board Design Guidelines. He stated that he has been developing the guidelines in collaboration with Blair Hines. He went on to give a general overview of the guidelines as they relate to major impact projects. The guidelines require that the applicant of a Major Impact Project provide counterbalancing amenities to benefit the community. There are 3 main components to the guidelines- the first relates to street tree planting. He stated that he has discussed the guidelines with many different Town staff members, including both T. Brady and E. Gallentine. He added that the goal is to make people more aware of the process and what their proposed plans should include.

H. Mattison commended M. Zarrillo and B. Hines for their work. He inquired whether the guidelines could mention irrigation specifically. H. Mattison and M. Zarrillo discussed irrigation methods for trees. M. Zarrillo stated that he would consider mentioning irrigation in the guidelines. L. Erdman inquired about sidewalk clearance from planting beds. M. Zarrillo replied that sidewalk clearance is regulated by accessibility protocols and is largely site dependent. He stated that he does not believe the guidelines should mention specific measurements in regards to sidewalk clearance. N. Gerdts stated that these guidelines are a great first step. She suggested expanding the scope of the guidelines to include environmental benefits and sustainable measures. M. Zarrillo stated that the guidelines must appease all divisions of Town, and therefore cannot be catered to one division's needs/goals. His goal is to make the guidelines reasonable so that there is little/no pushback from residents. He added that the guidelines as currently drafted were vetted with the Department of Public Works. M. Zarrillo stated that a complete streets program would be a more appropriate avenue to expand on the need to address sustainability in major impact projects. L. Erdman commented that it might be good to reference the complete streets program in the guidelines once it is crafted. M. Zarrillo agreed. T. Brady mentioned that one of the goals listed within the Open Space and Recreation Plan is to create a working group to develop a greenways program. He thanked M. Zarrillo for his effort on these guidelines and stated that he believes these guidelines are a great first step. N. Gerdts stated that she would like the final sentence of section one to be edited to include the Tree Planting Committee: "Final plans for street tree plantings are subject to the

review and approval of the department of Public Works, the Tree Planting Committee, and the Tree Warden or his/her designee.” M. Zarrillo asked for a copy of the minutes.

OLD BUSINESS

L. Erdman stated that she can discuss her plans for the website at the next meeting. N. Gerdts asked K. Weatherseed to meet to discuss tree tags sometime before the next meeting.

TREE PLANTING REQUESTS

The Committee discussed Back of Sidewalk tree planting requests. T. Brady suggested that due to time constraints, the Committee should suggest a species to the applicants. He added that he would like to plant by June 15th.

- 52 Kilsyth Road
 - The Committee decided to plant a small flowering tree.
- 12 Beverly Road
 - The Committee decided to plant a small flowering tree.
- 21 Longwood Avenue
 - The Committee discussed possible species and decided upon either a hornbeam, an Armstrong maple, or a single stem birch. They agreed the tree(s) should be tall. The location (and number of trees) will depend upon the location of utilities. The tree(s) cannot block the road sign or the big bay windows of the property.
- 102 Davis Avenue
 - The Committee decided that there is not enough space for a tree and suggested that the homeowner plant a flowering shrub (such as a flowering viburnum) instead.
- 210 Harvard Street
 - The Committee stated that this is a major historic landscape. They agreed the site will benefit from large shade trees. The trees should be planted between 25-30 feet apart.
- 20-32 Sewall Avenue
 - T. Brady stated that these Back of Sidewalk trees have already been planted.
- 295 Russett Road
 - The Committee agreed upon a small flowering tree in the center of the lawn. They suggested either a Kousa dogwood or a Kwanzan cherry.
- 33 Kendall Street
 - The Committee discussed the location of gas utilities, and decided that a tree cannot be planted to the left of the bay window. T. Brady stated he would look at the location of the other utilities and determine whether a tree can be planted.
- 80 Toxteth Street
 - N. Gerdts stated that she lives down the street from the applicant and can discuss possible species with them. The Committee decided a tree can only be planted to the left of the walkway.

The Committee assigned each member several applicants to follow up with. T. Brady reminded the Committee that the trees must benefit the public way.

STAFF UPDATE

T. Brady thanked N. Gerdt for sending him a picture of the tree at Linden Street. He said he was aware of the tree's condition- it appears to have been damaged by a car or something similar. He stated it is in decline and will be removed and replanted.

T. Brady stated that the Pearl Street hearing went very well. Several people came to the meeting, but there were no objections. The trees will be removed within 2-3 weeks.

T. Brady stated that the tree contract is currently out for bids. He assumes that the cost will go up.

T. Brady stated that 53 trees have been planted so far – approximately 12 trees are planted each day.

T. Brady showed the Committee a picture of a box truck having impaled a tree. He stated that he will remove the tree and replant it with a smaller tree. He mentioned that there will be a new planting opportunity on the other side of the drive.

Lastly, T. Brady informed the Committee of their next meeting date. H. Mattison stated that he was unavailable on that date. T. Brady stated that K. Weatherseed will follow up with other dates, and asked that the Commission get back to her quickly so that a replacement date can be quickly identified.

ADJOURN

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

Minutes prepared by Katie Weatherseed