October 2, 2019

Meeting Minutes
Submitted by: Beth Willard

Meeting Called to Order
Lilly Lombard, Chair called the meeting to order at 4:37 PM, and announced the audio recording of the meeting.

Members present and absent/introductions:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Member</th>
<th>Present</th>
<th>Time if arriving late or leaving early</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lilly Lombard, Chair</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Susan Lofthouse, Vice Chair</td>
<td>Absent</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Molly Hale</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Jennifer Werner</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marilyn Castriotta</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Arrived 4:48</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rob Postel</td>
<td>X</td>
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Staff & Visitors

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Member</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Richard Parasiliti, Tree Warden</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beth Willard, DPW Clerk</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>David Lukens, Public</td>
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Public Comment
- David Lukens was introduced as a possible candidate for the open position on the PSTC, and he gave a brief description of his interest and qualifications.

Approval of previous minutes
- Minutes were read and approved by commission members.

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To approve Sept. 18, 2019</td>
<td>Molly Hale</td>
<td>Jen Werner</td>
<td>Yes 5, No 0, Abstain 0</td>
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Chair Report
- 9/26 Conservation Commission meeting attendance
  - Lilly reported 7 significant trees on Dewey court are to be removed for that development.
    - Although she hoped it would be discussed, it was continued instead.
  - Lilly used the Public Comment period to comment on the Maple Ave. project, which also was on the agenda.
    - With respect to her comments, the Commission Chair indicated some willingness to review the wetlands protection ordinance with respect to Significant Trees and mitigation to reflect current climate science.
    - Lilly requested a formal arborist report on the Maple Ave. project.
  - Lilly reported the Great Tree Bicycle Tour is scheduled for Oct. 20, 2019 (rain date Oct. 27).
    - She showed the map and brochure created for the tour.
Tree Warden Report

- **Park Hill Rd solar project/public tree hearing**
  - The Public Shade Tree Hearing has been posted for Oct. 17, 2019 at 5 pm on Park Hill Rd.
  - There are 59 trees to be removed under the proposed project, of which 47 are live trees.
  - The largest tree has an 18” DBH.
  - The developer has agreed to a $39,300 mitigation settlement.
  - Tree protection will still be required on several trees within the project.
  - They will be engineering the road in place, so there will not be root disturbance.
  - There are no drainage swales planned.

- **DCR project update**
    - If the project can’t be finished by then, the PSTC can apply for an extension for another year, possibly dovetailing with Design by Nature’s project.
    - Design By Nature is designing the parking lot near the old Mill River bed.
    - The PSTC project is set in front of that area, so it will not impact their project.
  - The plantings done on Wilson Ave. can be added to the project even though it was not in the original plan, as it is part of an Environmental Justice Area.

- Rich participated in the Tree Warden Qualification seminar today, doing a class about planting.
  - He stressed the grow bag system, importance of volunteer effort, and that the amount of carbon created in planting a new tree vastly outweighs the carbon sequestered by the tree for many years.

- One shade tree hearing is planned for a removal and replacement on Ford Crossing.
  - He plans to dig up the tree and place in another location.

**Significant Tree Ordinance**

- Lilly spoke with Carolyn Misch about updating it. Topics discussed included:
  - Decreasing the size of a Significant Tree.
    - Carolyn asked how other communities define a Significant Tree and what they mean by “tree protection” of Significant Trees.
  - Creating a new category of Highly Significant Trees (ones that are the choicest in the city).
  - Creating a data base of the trees.
  - Redefining some terms in the ordinance and increasing the justifications.
  - Defining stronger replacement values in different zones in the city.
  - Planning has never identified the micro climates in the down town area.
    - Lilly questioned how many of these micro climates can we afford to give up for development.
  - They discussed trade-offs: preserving trees versus more dense development in urban areas.

- Rich felt it was a productive conversation.
  - He feels it is important to get the message on preserving trees to developers prior to the creation of a development plan so they can design around existing trees.
    - Arborist reports are generally done after the plan is submitted, and it really needs to be done prior to creating the plan.
The projects that have happened since the creation of the Significant Tree Ordinance have accounted for the removal of 12,111 DBH of trees.

- The City has collected $14,455 in mitigation so far.
- Carolyn Misch agreed that the fee should increase from the current $90 per caliper inch to $100 per caliper inch.

**Climate Plan – updated comments—review**

- Lilly noted that the Climate Plan will be attached to, but separate from the City’s Master plan.
  - She felt since the Master Plan is being reviewed in 2020, the Climate Plan should be incorporated into it.
- The infrastructure that the Mayor created in the Forestry Dept. is not mentioned.
  - If not included, the next administration could drop support for it.
- Lilly felt that clear metrics, targets, & goals were needed in the Climate Plan.
- Jen suggested the PSTC should be part of the conversation on the Master Plan review.

**Discussion about urban tree benefits and messaging**

- Lilly noted that the Conservation Commission chair stated their mission at the start of the meeting.
  - She would like to do the same at every PSTC meeting.
- She would like to affirm all the benefits trees provide.
  - The Alliance for Trees put out a list in 2014.
  - PSTC members suggested benefits of trees including cooling, wildlife resources, neighborhood enhancement and community building, enhancing physical and mental well-being, renewable energy resource, building/craft materials, and carbon sequestration.
  - Bob Leverett’s research on the Dewey Court Tulip Tree also demonstrates their benefits.
    - He measured 675 cu. ft. of trunk and limb volume.
    - He grew tulip trees seedlings over 6 years, which he used for comparison.
    - To replace the Dewey Court tree requires 11,260 seedlings grown for 6 years.
  - Rob mentioned some research that it was not a vertical measurement or the horizontal canopy measurement that was important, but the number of leaves on the tree.
- Rich mentioned that the planting program is a long term gain, hopefully by adding new trees every year, eventually the tide might be turned.
  - Cambridge is planting 1,000 trees per year, and hopes to up it to 2,000 per year in hopes of reaching carbon neutral by 2050.
  - For comparison, Cambridge is 20% canopied, while we are at 48%.
- He also noted many of the old trees are actually releasing carbon as they decay and die, get cut down, and their stumps ground.

**Fall planting update**

- Rob said they planted lots of trees on Prospect St.
  - 6-8 neighborhood members came out to help, although only 1 had officially signed up.
  - He noted that as they dug down, the earth was distressingly powdery dry.
  - Many trees are set back plantings, entailing a lot of paperwork, but are much better locations for planting.
  - They will return there the third week of October, as there are 15-20 trees to plant yet.
- They had one new volunteer come out last week.
• Rich noted that the focus now needs to be on the DCR grant work, with 50 trees to plant.
• Rob said the Saturday planting will be at Overlook Dr., and Wednesday they will be at Middle St.
  o Many of the trees to plant are in setback locations scattered throughout the city, so he may organize 4 groups and disperse them through the city to plant.

Any other business not anticipated by Chair
• Molly asked about the trees in front of Cooley Dickinson Hospital.
  o Lilly said John Lombardi had changed the plan, and planted trees where the forsythia bushes had been.
  o Other areas were never followed up on.
  o Lilly suggested targeting it for Arbor Day.
  o It was suggested to reach out to Regenerative Design to see where they left off.
• Molly asked about the work at the MA DOT yard on Locust St., as lots of trees were cut down.
  o Rich said that the site had to be cleaned up, as there was contamination from use as a state yard, as well as contamination with coal ash from the trolley car garage prior to that.
  o As it is a state project, the City has no input on the trees.
• Molly noted Chris Petersen was not available as a candidate for the open position on the PSTC.
• Rich asked for a poll of PSTC member availability for the holidays so that he could notify Forbes Library of meeting dates.

To Do list
• Molly and Jen will look into the Cooley Dickinson Hospital project.
• Marilyn will register for the bike tour, investigate micro climate language, and other CAPS.
• Rob will plant Wednesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays, and planning for the plantings.
• Jen will register for the bike tour, send the ACT book out electronically, and plant.
• Rich will register for the bike tour, plant, have a Public Shade Tree hearing Oct. 17, speak with the DPW director about gas leaks found, talk to her about the Climate Plan, work with Lilly on the Ordinance, and send around the Environmental Justice Area map.
• Lilly will send a link to the bike tour registration, a link to an article about carbon sequestration in the Urban forest, and will work on the Significant Tree Ordinance.

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Meeting adjourned at 6:22 PM.