



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
URBAN FORESTRY COMMITTEE
JOSEPH A. CURTATONE
MAYOR

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2020, 6:00 PM
MINUTES

MEETING AT SOMERVILLE CITY HALL
93 HIGHLAND AVENUE
3RD FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM

Meeting notes prepared by Tori Antonino and Vanessa Boukili

Committee Members in attendance: Althea Northcross (AN; co-chair), Sharon Komarow (SK), Conor Guidarelli (CG), Malik Drayton (MD) [ex-officio; Senior Urban Forestry & Landscape Planner designee], Jennifer Clifford (JC), Amy Mertl (AM), Tori Antonino (TA)

Committee Members absent: Chris Dwan (co-chair), Sarah Sweeting, Mark Lawhorne (ex-officio; Tree Warden)

Others in Attendance: Roxane Scrima, Clarissa, Luisa Oliveira (Director, PSUF)

Althea Northcross called meeting to order at 6:17 p.m.

1. Introductions / Housekeeping

- a. Introductions all around
- b. Decision to make a UFC folder on Google Drives for sharing information for ‘dissemination not deliberation’.

2. Resident Concerns

- a. Roxane Scrima, Kindergarten Teacher at Kennedy. Working with students on tree identification. Concerned about neighbors dying tree whose branches are coming down in their yard. Worried about being injured. Hoping to find name of the tree disease. Looks like a leopard tree.
- b. Clarissa, B.U. student freelancing for Somerville Journal.

3. Mission of the Committee

- a. AN proposed “Mission of the UFC is to safeguard, advocate for, support a diverse urban forest.”
Brainstorm session.



4. Updates from City:

- a. City Tree Removals
 - i. Ed leathers Poplars coming down. Galls creating weak point mid-trunk.
- b. Private Tree Removal Permit(s) and Exception(s)
 - i. 15 Harrison St, hazard
 - ii. 29 Kingston St, hazard
 - iii. 17 Bromfield Rd, hazard
 - iv. 17 Laurel Tr. damaging to retaining wall waiver owner occupied
 - v. 26 Hawthorne St, removed 42” of tree and replacing 41”, deposit \$450 into tree fund.
 - vi. Foss Park
 - 1. Submit a statement once we have more information about the project.
 - 2. MD - Special meeting can be called.
 - vii. Conway Park
 - 1. Funds for design for an artificial turf allocated.
 - 2. Community design process upcoming.
 - 3. Trees to be planted around the field.
- c. Urban Forest Management Plan
 - i. Luisa Oliveira presenting. Hoping to have draft by June which is grant deadline. Want to come up with a set of goals we are all in agreement about. Brainstorming on how the UFC can help facilitate getting feedback from the community.
- d. Tree Hearing follow up
 - i. Inner belt
 - 1. Ash trees are in conflict with the sewer. To be removed.
 - ii. Colorado Blue Spruce will be removed. 2 trees will be planted by Eversource. Lines are a problem.
 - 1. MD Eversource does not remove lines. 30 under 30 (thirty plants under 30 feet).
 - iii. Elm at 13-15 Dresden Circle to be monitored.
- e. Parks Tree Health Program
- f. Young Tree Training Program
 - i. Young street tree training (pruning) contract to go out to bid. 837 young trees throughout the city.
 - 1. TA asking these contractors not to weed. Green mulch opportunity.
 - 2. AN opportunity for residents who want to help care for trees.
 - ii. MD - weeding would be an add alt, but not part of the base contract.

5. Open Meeting Law

- a. Chris Dwan Statement to be attached
- b. AN - nobody has violated OML. Clarify when we are speaking publicly as an individual or as a group.
- c. From Chris’ email. ‘I am pleased to report there have been no violations large or small by this committee...make a practice of asking the committee whether we want to make formal

comments on presentations...and that the practice of quick decisive memos, when we unanimously agree, will help to make it clear where the committee stands.’

- d. SK - What is our process about making comments, for Foss Park for example? How do we go about doing it, under OML?
 - i. Small group to discuss, then to be voted on by the committee.
 - ii. MD - a draft could be disseminated before a meeting, but not commented on.

6. Funding / Fundraising discussion

- a. JC - Resource excel sheet shared to the google drive folder.
- b. Lists of grants.
- c. Where does the funding go? To the city?
- d. Avoid overlapping applications with the city.

7. Outreach / Partnership Updates

8. City Council Updates

- a. Denied the special municipal employee status
 - i. https://somervillecityma.iqm2.com/Citizens/Detail_LegiFile.aspx?Frame=&MeetingID=3085&MediaPosition=&ID=21406&CssClass=

9. Working Group Updates

10. Approval of Minutes from Previous Meetings

- a. Motion to approve minutes from January 16th, 2020 unanimously approved at 8:20 pm (motion – Northcross, 2nd – Clifford, vote: 7:0:0)

Adjourn: Motion to adjourn meeting unanimously approved at 8:22 pm [motion – Komarow, second – Mertl, vote: 7:0:0].