



Arlington Tree Committee (ATC) Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, September 10, 2025

Time: 7:30 - 9:00 PM

Location: Hybrid Meeting Format with Zoom Application -- Arlington Town Hall Annex 2nd floor Conference Room [ATC Monthly Zoom Mtg Link](#)

Participants: Eliza Burden, Steven Moore, Keith Schnebly, Susan Stamps, Mary Ellen Aronow
Tim Lecuivre (Tree Warden); Guests: Karen Thomas-Alyea

1. Called to Order at 7:30 PM, Reviewed Agenda, and Introduced Guests.
2. Minutes from Previous Month / Action Items
 - a. August meeting minutes are not ready for review; we will vote on approve next month.
 - b. Tim will follow up with Marathon St. / Everett St. contractors to let them know that the concrete and paving materials placed in the tree strip curb areas are not acceptable, and there is a need to remediate.
 - c. Susan wants to ensure that all trees are protected during large-scale, Town-sponsored construction projects, such as the sidewalk re-building on Everett and Grafton Sts.; she will talk to the Town Manager about the issue.
 - d. Keith related the positive observation that trees planted in the past few years on his street are already providing shade!
 - e. Steve will investigate if there's an easier path to the Adopt-a-Tree Program (AATP) map than what is now available through the ATC website.
3. Department of Public Works (DPW) Tree Division Update (Tim)
 - a. Tree Preservation Bylaw Activity
 - i. 323 Ridge St. -- No protected trees to be removed; teardown and rebuild.
 - ii. 95 Grandview Rd. -- No protected trees to be removed; teardown and rebuild.
 - iii. 46 Mystic Lake Dr. -- John Carney developer, no protected trees to be removed.
 - iv. 23 Lantern Ln. -- Avatar developer, no protected trees to be removed.
 - v. 22 Old Colony Rd. -- Avatar developer, no protected trees to be removed.
 - vi. 30 Cleveland St. -- No protected trees to be removed.
 - vii. 10 Mead Rd. -- No protected trees to be removed.

- b. Tree Hearings / Appeals of Decisions to Select Board -- None.
- c. Town Projects & Maintenance Activities
 - i. Hill's Hill Mountain Bike Park Project -- Grand opening occurred September 6th, Susan attended and was impressed with design and integration with tree canopy; she was unhappy, however, that walkers are not offered protection on paths.
 - ii. Pleasant St. reconstruction continues; some street trees had to be taken.
 - iii. Fall Planting -- 150 trees ordered; Tim intends to plant at Whittemore and Wellington Parks; at Whittemore, two new trees will be planted where large tree had to be taken.
- d. Street trees -- 80% of requests are people who commit to watering; follow-through is unclear.
- e. Watering -- Concerns about trees not surviving. (Subcommittee: Keith, Steve, Karen, Susan, Eliza).

4. Town Day Planning

- a. Scheduled for Sept 20th -- Keith has tent, table, boxes of info, etc.; this year, we are across Mass. Ave. from the usual location, closer to Tryst.
- b. Watering and AATP theme.
- c. Looking for additional people to staff the booth, since Mary Ellen and Eliza are away (for the first time!).
- d. Graphics to update and hang: heat island map, AATP map -- Steve.

5. Subcommittee Reports

- a. Comprehensive Plan / Tree Preservation Bylaw -- Susan, Mary Ellen, Keith, Steve
 - i. Environmental Planner AmpUp Input Meeting discussed.
 - ii. AmpUp "Meeting in a Box" ATC Submission -- we are pleased with the consistency and thoroughness of product.
- b. Planting Programs (Community Tree Canopy Program, Back-of-Sidewalk Tree Program, Adopt-a-Tree Program) -- Eliza, Mary Ellen, Steve, Keith, Marina
 - i. Fall Community Tree Canopy Program (CTCP) Planting -- 37 people were on the waiting list from the Spring, but when Mary Ellen reached out this Fall, there was very little response; we will offer more trees in the Spring.
 - ii. Back-of-Sidewalk Tree Program (BOSTP) Pilot-of-a-Pilot discussed.
- c. Outreach / Social Media -- Eliza continues to publish.
- d. Vision / Goals -- Susan, Ed, Keith, Olivier, Jackie -- Not Discussed.

6. New Business

a. Need to refocus Subcommittee on the Bylaw Updating (Susan, Mary Ellen, Keith, Steve).

7. Review New Action Items.

8. Adjourn -- 9:02 PM.

Next steps

- Steve and Zoom1: Work on formatting meeting minutes using Zoom Meeting summary to cover Marina's absence.
- Susan: Follow up with Town Council regarding the tree pricing question for the 25-foot planting requirement.
- Tim: Include the removed dead tree in Whittemore Park in replanting plans.
- Tim: Continue working with Engineering department regarding the crushed material and concrete under planting strips on Marathon and Everett streets.
- Susan: Provide Jim Feeney with language about requiring watering for town projects in contracts and using construction guidelines for tree protection.
- Watering Solutions - Tree Committee: Consider more in-depth planning for tree watering over the winter for next season. Keith to organize a Subcommittee - Keith, Steve, Karen, Susan, Eliza) Karen Thomas-Alyea: Explore working with the Tree Committee on watering trees at Robin's Farm Park. Tree Committee: Develop solutions for tree watering needs, especially as weather gets warmer and drier
- Susan: Address tree protection requirements with Jim Feeney, suggesting that all public shade trees should be protected using the town's construction guidelines.
- Committee: Discuss social media and committee involvement in more depth.
- Susan and Eliza: Continue working on determining the appropriate fee for tree planting requirements when there's no planting place available.
- Steve and Zoom1: Work on reformatting meeting minutes to include action items both embedded in the context and listed at the end.
- Steve and Keith: Prepare two sets of minutes for approval at the next meeting.
- Steve: Look into making the Adopt-a-Tree map more easily accessible on the town website.
- Tim: Count all tree plantings and survival rates at the end of the fall planting season.