

# MEETING NOTES



ISSUE DATE  
June 20, 2018

## **Break out session feedback**

MEETING DATE  
June 12, 2018

### *Advocacy*

LOCATION  
Cambridge Rindge and Latin  
School

CLIENT  
City of Cambridge

PROJECT NAME/NUMBER  
Urban Forest Management Plan  
2953

RE  
Task Force Meeting 1

ATTENDEES  
City of Cambridge  
City of Cambridge Task Force  
Kleinfelder  
Reed Hilderbrand

#### Engagement ideas:

- Where kids go, people follow. Get people doing something “hands on” and engage as families. Educate the people
- Connect forest issues to social issues, as this will engage the next generation. Social justice issues motivate broad populations
- Take a more holistic approach, consider paying low income residents to manage their forest
- This study should include public health issues and how they relate to the canopy
- Engage corporations and consider how they get employees involved in engagement and social responsibility
- Provide talking points for the city when engaging the corporations on how they support with the city efforts
- Need large public trees and show we value them to get others to do so.
- Consider how this process engages older residents as connectors and advocates
- Utilize engaged residents, Green Cambridge members to conduct visual tree pit assessments (99% of tree pits are in the City’s GIS data); develop into long term relationships, stewardship to foster “resident science”.
- How does the Task Force communicate within itself in order to feed information back from other resources?

#### Questions to consider:

- How do you get beyond preaching to people in the people in the choir?
- How do you engage the transient population of renters?
- How can this be understood in regional terms and not just ending at our boundaries as a city?
- How do you get the private land owners to be stewards? Young people, especially. Ground stewardship in reality and the place we live

### *Analytics*

#### Potential data sources:

- Request tree impact studies from Planning Board that were conducted by

new development projects (Kendall Sq, at privately owned public spaces (POPS) in the City, elsewhere)

- Is it possible to get tree maintenance records from private companies, e.g. maintenance of Grand Junction; BrightView's work for Boston Properties
- Utilize MIT's Treepedia data to understand tree count and condition from bottom up as opposed to top down
- Include gas leak data in planning

#### Research ideas:

- Phenology research: -non-natives leafing out faster than natives in urban areas, include this research in decision-making for final tree species list
  - connect with BU's phenology study
  - consider planting trees that are viable under warmer climates, such as those native to the mid-Atlantic region, etc.
- Overhead wires: review regulations governing tree pruning around wires
- Research possibility of insurance cos. reimbursing City for trees damaged/killed in car accidents, similar to developing a “compensatory tree” replacement program.
- Get additional information re: older (older than 3 years) tree plantings in structural soil. Get structural soil specifications not just from City trees, but also from trees planted by universities, such as MIT, Harvard and Lesley.
- Possibility of conducting 'autopsy' on dead tree when it is replaced
- Get information on DCR's latest resource management plan to determine inventory of DCR's current and planned trees on the Cambridge side.
- Cross-reference areas of canopy loss with jumps in assessed property value to see if loss associated with renovations (assessor GIS layer + canopy loss layer)
- Review permit requirements related to cutting down trees.

#### *Practice*

- Big question: how do we plant and how do we compel to plant?
- Floodplain trees can survive inundation but do not do well in SBSS
- Challenge of planting along narrow sidewalks – perhaps reprioritization of streets and encourage planting on residential lots
- How do you build in an ability to check the soil?
- Can we manage the need for mycorrhizal fungi citywide?
- Challenges to residential planting: the worry that existing old infrastructure may be impacted by tree roots
- How do you get residents to plant trees and the right ones?



**Public Comment Period:**

Public Comment 1: The speaker is excited and encouraged by this project.

Public Comment 2: The speaker expressed concern of the current rate of tree removal. The speaker encourages everyone to support policy orders to slow down tree loss.