

City of Cambridge Committee on Public Planting

Meeting Minutes – May 8, 2024 - 5:30-7pm

Hybrid Meeting via Zoom & at DPW - 147 Hampshire St.

Attendance (* indicates virtual attendance)

CPP Members: Ahron Lerman*, Amira Valliani*, Archana Venkataraman*, Cindy Carpenter, Chantal Eide, Cynthia Smith, Gretchen Friesinger, Maggie Booz*, Ray Fahrner, Robb Johnson, Ruth Loetterle*, Sandra Fairbank, Sara Cohen, Sophia Emperador, Tracey Orr* *Members not in attendance:* Angela Zhong, Uriel Bulow, Vinita Bhaskar

DPW/City of Cambridge: Abby Bentley, Ellen Coppinger, Kevin Beuttell, David Lefcourt, John Nardone, Andrew Putnam, Courtney Kirk (CDD), Paul Kawai (Law), Elliott Veloso* (Law)

Guests & members of the public: Charles Teague, Heather Hoffman

Meeting notes submitted by: Sara Cohen

Agenda Items:

1. Executive Session pursuant to G.L. c.30A, s.21(a)(1) to discuss “complaints or charges brought against a public officer, employee, staff member or individual,” specifically the Open Meeting Law Complaint of Charles Teague dated April 12, 2024, alleging violations of the Open Meeting Law by the Committee on Public Planting. (30 min)
2. Review of Meeting Minutes for April (5 min)
3. Updates from City Arborist (10 min)
 - Spring tree planting, progress towards annual goals
 - Update on tree well expansion, other sidewalk/road work
4. City events - Urban Forestry and CPP outreach (25 min)
 - Arbor Week - update and feedback
 - Biodiversity Day at Danehy Park - update and feedback
 - Fresh Pond Day (June 22) - planning
 - Other upcoming events - for this year or next (e.g., Cambridge River Festival - June 15, Cambridge Jazz Festival at Danehy Park - July 27-28)
5. Review draft letter supporting Municipal Reforestation Act (10 min)
6. Other business, plans for topics at June meeting and field trip options (July) (5 min)
7. Public comments (5 min)

Meeting notes

1. Executive Session
 - Sophia Emperador moved to have the Committee of Public Planting adjourn to an Executive Session. Cynthia Smith seconded the motion and all the CPP members voted in favor of adjourning.
 - Upon returning from the Executive Session, the time was 7pm, and Chantal Eide moved to adjust the May 8 agenda to include only the following:
 - Review the prior meeting minutes
 - Hear a 5 minute update from the City’s arborists on tree planting
 - The remaining items would be pushed to the June CPP meeting

- Sara Cohen seconded this motion and all the CPP members voted in favor.

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2. Review Meeting Minutes from April

- Cynthia Smith requested review of the language around CDD's park presentation to remove any design approval language
- Item #5, re: Linear Park, update to reflect that the meeting on May 2 was canceled.
- April minutes were not approved, but will be reviewed at the June meeting.

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3. Arborist Updates - 5 minute Update

- Both Leahy (balled and burlapped trees) and the in-house crews (bare root trees) are planting.
- Leahy is also opening up a few more tree pits for planting.
- This spring 700 trees will be planted, and about 30% of the trees have been planted as of May 8.
- All the additional free trees from Arbor Day were distributed on Monday, May 6.

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4. Sara Cohen moved for the meeting to be adjourned. Sophia Emperador seconded the motion and all the CPP members voted in favor of adjourning.

Next meeting: Our next Zoom meeting will be held on June 12, 2024 at 5:30pm and will be advertised to the public in advance.