Agenda for CATC: 6/13/17, 6-7:30pm at Eastern Bank on Brattle Street

Need a signup sheet ready for attendants

1. Introducing Lettie Cabot, Summer Intern
2. New role for David Meshoulam, Coordinator for Cambridge Trees
3. Update on canopy project
   - End of phase 1
   - Writing of report to share with group and community
   - Volpe site - ask for an update.
   - Next steps?
4. City Canopy study: LiDAR
5. Internal communication
   - Suggestions:
     - Google group list
     - Google calendar
6. City Communication
   - Tree death / leafing issues (drought?)
   - Memorial Drive trees removal and health

From: "O'Riordan, Owen" <ooriordan@cambridgema.gov>

Date: June 9, 2017 at 9:22:35 AM EDT

To: Susan Labandibar <susan@techboston.com>

Subject: RE: Update on status of tree taskforce for the Cambridge Trees Advisory Committee meeting on Tuesday, June 13

Hi Susan,

Thanks for your email. As you know we responded to City Council a few weeks ago indicating that we intended appointing a task force to help us with the master planning effort that we expect will begin this fall. We also indicated that it was of significant importance to us to ensure that the master planning process and the appointment of a task force was such that it didn't undermine our Public Planting Committees standing or ongoing work effort. With that in mind the following is the expected process throughout this summer and into the fall;

1)   Develop a draft "request for design services" procurement document to be shared with the PPC next month.

2)   Finalize the procurement document by the end of July and advertise for consultants to bid on such.

3)   Begin the process of advertising, interviewing and selecting a task force in light of the design services requested.

4)   Chose a consultant (September/October 2017)

5)   Begin the master planning process with the task force in place and work through the year on the various activities associated with it.

I would be happy to talk with you in more detail if that is of interest or indeed if you wished to come along to our PPC meeting in July you could participate in the discussion with them at that time, regardless I am happy to respond if you have any additional questions,

Sincerely,

Owen

7.   Social media campaign: suggestions?
     o   Idea of setting up a table on Mem Drive w/ petition
8.   Tree of week update (Elena Saporta)

OPTIONAL ITEM: Bio-Char

Meeting

Attendance:

- Michele Lonati
  - mlonati@gmail.com
- Malcolm Brown
  - malcolm.brown109@yahoo.com
- Sylvia Parsons
  - sylviap19@gmail.com
- Charlotte Ikels
  - cxi@case.edu
- Gretchen Friesinger
  - gfriesinger@gmail.com
- Steven Nutter
  - steven@greencambridge.com
- David Meshoulam
  - daveedmesh@gmail.com
- Susan Labandibar
  - susan@techboston.com
- Lettie Cabot
  - lettie@greencambridge.com
- Florrie Wescoat
  - mfmw2@yahoo.com
- Elena Saporta
  - esla@earthlink.net
- Craig Kelley
  - ckelley@cambridgema.gov
- Quinton Zondervan
  - qyz915@gmail.com

Update on the Tree Canopy project:

- What is the project?
  - Uses technology to determine whether Cambridge trees have been growing or defoliating
- How does it work?
  - Phase 1:
    - Select a random pixel - determine to which category it belongs:
      - Permeable
      - Building
      - Tree Cover
      - Impermeable
  - Phase 2?
    - Use google maps and iTree data to compare points to see changes over time
      - Is phase 2 worth the time? No - goal is to promote a healthy tree canopy
- We are: 90% done (≈900 data points left)
  - Response:
    - Volunteer gathering to finish project (send general email)
    - Most people at the meeting were willing to participate
- Other studies that pertain to the Tree Canopy study:
  - EarthWatch study
    - Looked at tree survival; but only a small datapoint and not a canopy study - not very helpful
  - UVM study
    - Most accurate technology
  - CDD study, DPW
  - TreePedia (MIT)
    - http://senseable.mit.edu/treepedia
    - Only street view
- Importance of tree canopy study:
  - Citizen science - having residents participate in the study; high public relations value
  - Important to see how canopy has changed over a period of time

Update on Volpe

- Note: Chuck gave update last time
- The land is owned by MIT, so there are no promises; private property means there is not much we can do
- We don't have a tree protection ordinance
- We have a Bio-provision
  - Meaning: money pays into tree fund
    - Some confusion over:
      - How is money spent?
      - How are trees assessed?

No update on LiDAR - meeting tomorrow

Internal Communication:

- What would be helpful for spreading the word about Green Cambridge meetings?
  - Agenda out a couple days before
    - How did people find out about this meeting?
      - Susan sent an email through the action network
        - However, some difficulty with site
  - Google calendar (on website) - anyone can subscribe to it
  - Google group list

Tree of the Week:

- Elena Saporta works on Tree of the Week
  - As of now, Elena starts with the most prevalent trees in Cambridge and goes down the list posting about each species
- Ideas:
  - Tree of the Month?
  - What about having a tree description, and you can click to see all the trees of that species in Cambridge?
    - As of now: there is an app (Tree Inventory Map - Cambridge Street Trees Walking App) that uses phone GPS tracking that states the species of each tree in Cambridge (https://gis.cambridgema.gov/dpw/trees/trees_walk.html)
      - We should point people to this app and link descriptions of each tree to app so that one can see the type of tree and its description
      - Problems with app:
        - The city should update the app and be more specific (as of now most of the trees only have their genus in the description - need species as well)
    - Other apps: Healthy Trees Healthy Cities (Nature Conservancy)*
      - The app allows municipalities to upload inventory, and residents can collect data on trees - strengthens the idea of citizen science
        - Municipality can use data for a sense of the health of trees
      - The municipality can also upload guidelines to help people know what to do for each tree

*discuss at next meeting

Meeting Room for the CTAC Meetings:

- Pros
  - Free
  - Available often
- Cons
  - Not much space
- Ideas:
  - Harvard?
  - Public library? (Library conference rooms or basement)
    - Not reoccuring
  - Farm? (213 Hurley Street)

CTAC Meeting Dates:

- Different date?
- Public planting committee meeting next day; 350 Mass meetings same day (but switching meeting days)

Decision regarding meeting places and dates: No - let's leave everything as it is

Communicating with City:

- We must work with the city to communicate about tree health, tree death, and trees' trouble with leafing
- Memorial drive trees - we must plan for a replant with DCR and Cambridge
  - Because of a fungal problem known as *Anthracnose* (which is caused by moist weather and mildew), many trees (especially the London plane trees) have had trouble leafing
  - Is there a solution? No - the fungal problem happens everywhere, and from what we know, there is no solution - ask David Lefcourt
  - The trees are on DCR property, and the Charles River Conservancy is involved with the trees - Steven in contact
- There are 300 new trees between Harvard and Mass Ave, but we have to continue to replace dead trees
- Communication - having a table on Memorial drive
  - Educational opportunity and sparks conversations
  - We could collaborate with Charles River Conservancy & bike safety groups
- We could have citizen scientists do tree inventory of Memorial drive trees - and upload to GIS - this way, we can track and see the health of trees (or even have a private arborist check them out)
  - sign ups
  - each tree has an email address, and we could gather real information about each tree (age, health, etc.)

Goals: partnership between DCR and Cambridge (or extend partnership) - allow for money for trees; right now, Cambridge map doesn't include trees, and the trees are severely underfunded

DCR GIS layer needed (do they have one?)

Fundraising for trees:
- Alums of MIT and Harvard can donate for the trees of Memorial drive, which could in turn ensure some money for Green Cambridge.
- We should reach out to those that live in condos/houses along Memorial Drive - good for coalition building, and provides a model for enrolling right committee for TTF
- Elena said that there are people willing to fund effort privately

Notes:
- Salt - harming tree health
  - Gypsum - applied by DCR

Tree Task Force (TTF):

- In the beginning, DPW experienced limited success with tons of suggestions by Green Cambridge, and the Public Planting Committee (PPC) was more involved. So Green Cambridge took a step back, and a tree task force was created (like the Net Zero task force by Cambridge). In this way, Green Cambridge was able to get policy order passed a few months ago. The policy was not perfect. A consultant was hired to create a master plan. The working groups inform the consultant. But Green Cambridge didn't ask for a Master Plan, and the task force was not limited to it. Owen, the head of DPW, believes the Master plan will be created in the Fall. The question is - is there a charter for the Task Force? And if not, when can we see one? (Ask Owen about these questions). This charter should be created before the Task Force is. It would be great to have collaboration from PPC, Mother's Out Front, etc., to write this charter. The TTF also doesn't necessarily apply to just city trees; instead, it can apply to private ones as well. But, we need to continue with pressure so that people are assigned to TTF (17 citizens).

Craig Kelley update on TTF
- Creating and assembling the TTF takes a while, perhaps up to 4 months