

# Bedford Arbor Resources Committee (BARC)

## Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 26, 2023 7:30PM

Because of the social distancing restrictions imposed by COVID 19, this was a virtual meeting conducted by ZOOM and facilitated by David Manugian.

## Attendees

Chair: Dan Churella. Committee: Deb Edinger, Jaci Edwards, Bobbi Tornheim, Dan Smythe, Molly Haskell, Elizabeth Knox. DPW: David Manugian. Tree Warden: Nick Pouliot. Select Board Liaison: Bopha Malone NOT present. No Public attendees.

## Opening

Meeting called to order by the chair at 7:33PM, followed by attendance, reading of remote Open Meeting Law statement and notice that the Town of Bedford was recording the meeting.

## DPW report

- Mr. Pouliot: **Declining beech tree** on town common has been taken down, wood has been made available to the public at Carlisle Rd. <Discussion regarding use of the wood.>
- <Discussion regarding **Eversource Trees, Almost Free Tree (AFT)** program (questions raised by Ms. Edwards on how many Eversource Trees planted, and by Ms. Edinger on difficulty getting AFT. Mr. Churella: Will work with Chris Nelson to get a sign-up form online for those who want to receive an AFT. This will simplify public access and recordkeeping. Also, in previous meetings, DPW reported that the Bedford GIS system has been updated to accommodate tree data, but must be input by BARC members.
- Upcoming DPW tree plantings for 2023 remain the same from December meeting: 5 projects, details TBD, see Action Item (below).

**ACTION ITEM:** Mr. Pouliot to follow up with Mr. Manugian on December item to forward information on upcoming projects to Ms. Knox so she can make planting recommendations. Ms. Knox will also follow up with Mr. Manugian in email.

<Discussion regarding **plans for tree planting on North Rd** following sidewalk installation project, data entry regarding tree removals.>

- Mr. Pouliot: We're **caught up on data entry regarding hazard trees.**
- <Discussion regarding **Eversource heavy pruning of trees** along Carlisle Rd, and **the need for a transparent process** that includes BARC review of list of trees to be pruned.
  - Mr. Churella: The list that Eversource produces is the list they send to their contractors. The Tree Warden has to approve it ahead of time.

- Ms. Tornheim raised question of **burying electrical and telephone lines**, <discussion of great expense involved.>
- Mr. Churella: Thank you to Mr. Pouliot for getting the **Tree City form** signed— over 25 years of Bedford having that distinction.

#### **ACTION ITEMS:**

- **[\*carry over from November meeting\*]**Mr. Manugian will forward plans to BARC for the planting projects for the coming year. Ms. Knox to review and make planting recommendations back to DPW.
- Mr. Pouliot will endeavor to make pruning plan from Eversouce available to BARC and public ahead of time.

#### **I-Tree Presentation follow-up**

- Mr. Churella: **iTree Canopy gives statistics on town tree cover, it is a valuable tool. Can support our work on Tree Policy and Tree Master Plan.**
- <Mr. Churella demonstrates how to use iTree Canopy to add data points for the Town of Bedford.>
- <General discussion on how to use iTree and how to share the file.>

#### **Trees Master Plan Update:**

- Mr. Churella: \$150K is coming up for vote at Annual Town Meeting on 03/27/2023. Assuming it passes, **\$40-50k will be for Trees Master Plan.**
- Mr. Churella contacted Urban Forestry Planner in Somerville and Davey Resources Group for information on developing Master Plan

#### **Town Tree Policy Update**

- **Tree Policy is more time critical right now.**
- Mr. Churella: abbreviated action plan
  - Develop PowerPoint presentation to explain new policy
  - Finish edits on policy document and appendix
  - Start meeting with Town departments and committees to get buy-in for new policy
  - Educate public on value of trees and reasons for new policy
- **Goal to present Tree Policy to Select Board in April**, after town meeting.
  - <Discussion of **challenges in marketing Tree Policy** to town constituents/public.>
  - <Discussion of **methods for researching and implementing best approaches to marketing Tree Policy.**>

#### **ACTION ITEMS:**

- Mr. Churella and others to continue refining Tree Policy, using research into other comparable towns.

- Subcommittee to explore and implement methods for public education and persuasion-Ms. Haskell, Ms. Knox, Ms. Edinger
- Mr. Churella to forward contact info to Ms. Knox w/r/t regional tree organization so that Ms. Knox can research how other towns arrived at their current Tree Policy and tree bylaws.

#### **Arbor Day:**

- Proclamation has been signed by Town Manager
- <Discussion of library display for Ms. Tornheim's **feature on invasive species.**>
- **Tree planting**, coordination with DPW
- Ms. Knox: **planning educational infographics**, to be shared via social media.

#### **Minutes**

Meeting minutes from 10/27/22 and 11/17/22 were reviewed and unanimously approved

#### **Election of new Committee Chair** [Major omission from minutes!]

- Mr. Churella announced at October meeting that he would be resigning in January
- <Discussion of duties of Chair and input from members.>
- **Ms. Haskell nominated by Ms. Edwards and seconded by Ms. Edinger. Vote was 6,0,0 for approval** (Mr. Smythe had left meeting).

#### **Adjourn**

At 9:41PM a motion to adjourn the meeting was made, seconded and unanimously approved

#### **Documents and Exhibits Used During this Meeting**

- Meeting minutes of 10/27/22 and 11/17/2022

**Upcoming meetings** – Meetings are usually scheduled for the fourth Thursday of the month at 7:30PM. Due to the COVID19 restrictions, meetings have been remote, with no in-person attendance. Meetings are scheduled for 2/13/2023, 3/23/2023.

Prepared and submitted by Elizabeth Knox

Minutes approved at // BARC meeting