



City of Cambridge

29.

IN CITY COUNCIL

December 18, 1995

COUNCILLOR TRIANTAFILLOU

WHEREAS: The position of City Arborist has been vacant for eight months; and

WHEREAS: The duties have been filled on a temporary basis but there still exists a need for a City Arborist; and

WHEREAS: Coordination of projects such as Central Square development, MDC Alewife Project, the ISTE A proposal for the common and the Client Street Tree Program are projects that need attention by the City Arborist; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to take whatever steps are necessary to initiate the process for filling the position of City Arborist on a full time basis; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to report back to this City Council on the action taken on this matter.

In City Council December 18, 1995

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk

Councillor Triantafillou

Whereas: The position of City Arborist has been VACANT FOR eight months, AND

Whereas: The duties have been ^{filled} temporary ^{on a} basis but there still exists A need FOR A City Arborist, AND

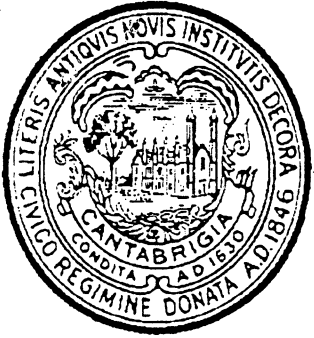
Whereas: ~~The City Arborist~~ Coordination of projects such as Central Square development, MDC Alewife Project, the ISTEAD proposal FOR the Common and the Client Street Tree Program ARE projects THAT need attention by the City Arborist, now therefore be it.

Ordered:

That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to take whatever steps ARE necessary to initiate the process FOR Filling the position OF City Arborist on A Full time basis, AND be it further

Ordered:

That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to report back to this City Council on the action taken on this matter.



Committee on Public Planting for the City of Cambridge

*Danna
Resolutions
re: City Arborist*

City of Cambridge

Committee on Public Planting

147 Hampshire Street

Cambridge

Massachusetts 02139

City Arborist: 617 349-4886

To leave a message for the

Committee on Public Planting:

617 349-4885

November 16, 1995

City Manager Healy

-2

In a letter we sent to you last July concerning the vacant arborist position, we included a job description prepared by our Committee for a City Arborist/Urban Forester. We are again including a copy of these criteria.

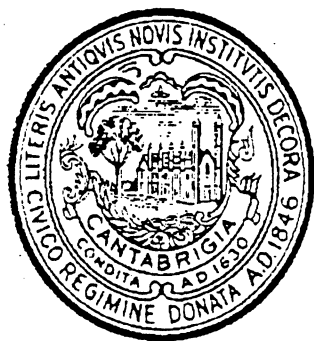
In a city the size of Cambridge the role of the City Arborist is a full time position. We would like to participate in the City's search for an arborist, and we urge you to address this important issue now.

Sincerely:

Co-Chairs

Janet Burns 354-7116

Phebe Leighton 864-2191



Committee on Public Planting for the City of Cambridge

City of Cambridge

Committee on Public Planting

147 Hampshire Street

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November 16, 1995

Mr. Robert Healy

City Manager

Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Dear Mr. Healy:

It has now been 8 months since Jack Kelly, the City Arborist left Cambridge on a 6 month leave of absence to take a job with Bartlett Tree Company. In October, when supposedly Jack Kelly's leave of absence was over, you reported to us as Co-Chairs of the Committee on Public Planting, that city officials had met with Jack, and that he was returning to his position. Since then we can see little evidence of his announced return.

Although both Ralph Dunphy as head of the Department of Public Works, and Dan White, acting as head of the Forestry Division have done an admirable job of filling in for Jack, never-the-less, the City Arborist position and the corresponding duties essential to the city, have not been fulfilled.

There are a number of projects that need the attention of a full time, professional arborist, not the part time effort of those who have other responsibilities. Some of these projects include the Chapter 90 tree planting program now handled by the Engineering Department, the Central Square development, the MDC Alewife project, the ISTEAs proposal for the Cambridge Common, and the Client Street Tree program. All of these projects need to be coordinated by the City Arborist, to effectively utilize money allocated for the public planting of trees, and their future maintenance.

The City of Cambridge has now been too long, over one half of a year, without the budgeted services of an arborist. It is time to stop handling this vital work on a day to day brush fire approach.

We believe that Jack Kelly has been given plenty of time to respond to the city's offer of returning to his job. It seems obvious to us that he is not interested. Therefore, we now have an opportunity to amplify the position of a new City Arborist, in the expert management of existing and proposed plantings, and the care of these plantings.

Committee on Public Planting Minutes

Meeting Date: November 15, 1995

Present: Les Barber, Janet Burns, Paula Cortes, Ralph Dunphy, Phebe Leighton, Pat Pratt, Kate Thompson, Dan White, Liz Zagoroff

1.) Tree Symposium The Urban Street Tree Planting Symposium held on Oct 24, was organized by the Boston Society of Landscape Architects and the Mass Community Forestry Council. Dan White from the DPW and Rob Steck from the CDD attended, also Phebe and Janet from the Committee; Paula was on the organizing committee for the symposium. Many of the ideas presented were about new technical approaches for tree planting due to the fact that most tree problems originate in the soil. One interesting talk was on a stone-soil mix which provides a load-bearing pavement base material and also provides a rooting medium for street trees. There is also better understanding now that much more space for roots is needed. Other presentations were on maintenance and planning issues. And, while he is not an expert on trees, Somerville Mayor Michael Capuano spoke about his City's tree policies and how he decided trees are good politically, "City trees vote, when you cut a tree down, you get a whole lot of phone calls". Because of narrow sidewalks, Somerville has been planting some trees on private property.

2.) Ruth Birkhoff Appreciation The Committee decided that a tree will be planted on Cambridge Common in recognition of Ruth's many years of work on behalf of the City's trees. She and her husband are moving to Long Island this month--trees and shrubs from her garden are moving there also. But she leaves behind hundreds of trees on streets and in open spaces which are the result of her long term efforts to have a diversity of trees planted and cared for. Along with Mary Kennedy, she was a founder of the Planting Committee and helped coordinate the Client Tree Program for a number of years before a City Arborist was attained.

3.) Client and City Trees Dan White reported that all of the client trees and all but a few of the city trees have been planted by the contractor, Leo's Landscaping. There was then lengthy discussion about how to obtain and select trees in a way that conforms with City bidding requirements. Dan had investigated the idea of using a per unit contract whereby a contract is set up with the nursery offering the best price on a given type of tree, i.e. red oak, with no set quantity specified. Alternatively, Paula described a procedure she has worked with, where it is in the contract that the contractor must "lead a designated person (i.e. arborist) to trees to be selected for a project, at various nurseries if necessary, until they are satisfied with quality". This approach emphasizes the Committee's concern about tree selection. The Committee is under the impression that the City's requirements now say that the low bid contractor also provides trees of his own choosing. Dan's idea emphasizes getting the low bid contractor together with the best price on a tree, although tree types may be located at different nurseries. Paula will send a copy of the relevant contract section to Mr. Dunphy to be checked out by the Treasurer's Department.

Dan reported that so far, there are 18 requests for client trees next year. The Committee said he should accept the orders using the existing tree list. Mr. Dunphy thought a suitable contract could be worked out over the winter. It was agreed that new materials would be written and the tree list expanded or revised for the 1997 program. Hopefully a new arborist will be on-board to work on this. Dan also said work on the inventory continues and that it could be complete by spring.

4.) Planting Committee Agenda During discussion about what issues or projects the Committee will focus on in the upcoming months, it was clear that the priority now is to work toward a new Arborist. Phebe had prepared a draft letter for Committee comment to the City Manager urging action on this situation. The final version will be sent including with it the ideas of the Committee about the Arborist role. As far as the Committee can determine, despite lack of resolution with Jack Kelly, the process to find a new Arborist needs to begin. Mr. Dunphy said once he is apprised of a vacancy by the City Manager, the process of filling the position can begin.



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W/A



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Consent Order #29

CM-537

Councillor Triantafillou re: Take whatever steps are necessary to initiate the process for filling the vacant position of City Arborist.

In City Council December 18, 1995

Order Adopted