



City of Cambridge

25.

IN CITY COUNCIL

March 25, 1996

COUNCILLOR TOOMEY
VICE MAYOR BORN
COUNCILLOR DAVIS
COUNCILLOR DUEHAY
COUNCILLOR GALLUCCIO
MAYOR RUSSELL
COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN
COUNCILLOR TRIANTAFILLOU

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to provide an update on the status of the plan to set up The Tree Fund as a tax-exempt trust fund as the mechanism for receiving donations and paying for tree planting on the Common and in the Community.

In City Council March 25, 1996

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "D. Margaret Drury".

D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk

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C. Toomey:

Ordered: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to provide an update on the status of the plan to set up The Tree Fund as a tax-exempt trust fund as the mechanism for receiving donations and paying for tree planting on the Campus and in the Community.

Further general discussion followed including the proposal for upgrading Porter Square Shopping Center and long-term plans to improve Brookline Street.

4.) Department of Public Works Dan White reported that 43 trees have been ordered through the Client Program. The fact that Mass Ave north of Harvard Square is problematic for trees was discussed again. Dan said 37 replacement trees went in last year between Porter Square and Route 16. Ralph Dunphy said that he recognizes that the tree component of Chap. 90 projects needs to be more carefully coordinated with the engineers during design.

Mr. Dunphy sought input about a proposal regarding trees at 955 Mass Ave. The owner would like to remove six large sycamores and replace them with some type of Bradford Pear. Since these are trees in the public way, to the first order they are due protection. Paula Cortes and other members of the Committee will review the situation and see if there is a compromise to recommend such as pruning.

As part of changing salt storage arrangements within the DPW yard, Mr. Dunphy plans to enhance an abutting neighborhood area. Phebe said she will provide planting suggestions to the project.

Mr. Dunphy suggested that Mr. Nicoloro, Dir. of the Water Dept., can make a presentation on the new Fresh Pond treatment plant scheduled to begin in 1997. How the landscape design of this major project fits into the Fresh Pond Reservation is an important aspect for comment by the Committee.

5.) Cambridge Common Phebe reported her frustration with trying to get the Law Dept to clear the way so a tax-exempt trust fund can be set-up in the Treasurer's Department. The Tree Fund is meant to be the mechanism for receiving donations and paying for tree planting on the Common. She then outlined a proposal to focus on the Harvard Square corner of the Common. This is a high visibility area which has been especially weakened by loss of trees. New trees along with other changes are much needed. Ruth Birkhoff has said she wishes to donate a tree to this area and Phebe thinks we can build on this. Phebe also expressed uncertainty about the viability of the Committee's idea of a long-term, community-based tree program for the Common in the face of the Law Dept problem and in the unknown scope of the ISTEPA funded project. Meanwhile she will continue efforts to get action from the Law Department.

Dan White confirmed that Bigelow Nursery will supply three suitable replacement Red Oaks for the Common this spring.

Boomer

update on status

Committee on Public Planting

Meeting Date: February 21, 1996

Present: Les Barber, Janet Burns, Paula Cortes, Ralph Dunphy, Mary Kennedy, Phebe Leighton Pat Pratt, Cynthia Sunderland, Louise Weed, Dan White, Liz Zagoroff

1.) Brattle/Craigie Traffic Island Tree The new roadway configuration is in place and a group is working toward planting a tree this spring. Area residents and others preferred one large tree to several smaller ones proposed by the City. Pat Pratt reported that a 10" caliper White Oak has been located at Princeton Nursery in NJ, and they are waiting for a photo of the tree. Another possibility is a 'Liberty' Elm. To purchase and plant a large tree could cost as much as \$6000. Mr. Dunphy agreed to contribute \$1250, from the City, approximately the cost of the several small trees. Phebe suggested that if a suitable tree is located for a planting this year that it could be used as an Arbor Day event or later in the summer as part of the City's 150th anniversary celebration.

2.) Update on City Forester Position At the January meeting the Committee met with Jack Kelly to hear his proposal for returning as part-time City Forester, and concluded that his plan wouldn't work and that Cambridge needs a full-time person. A letter listing Committee concerns was sent to Deputy City Manager R. Rossi. He apparently concurred and gave the go-ahead to advertise for a full-time position. At a meeting with Mr. Rossi he confirmed the general nature of the job and that the Committee will be represented on the selection committee. He said the new City Arborist/Forester will report to both himself and to Ralph Dunphy, DPW Commissioner and the office will be located at the DPW.

An advertisement has appeared in the Globe. Resumes will be accepted until April 19. Discussion included how this person will fit in at the DPW. While a degree of autonomy and the professional urban forestry focus of the new job is clear; the scope of supervisory functions within the DPW is not. How divisional management responsibilities will overlap is an issue. Dan White has been the supervising division head for over a year. Division work assignments vary and include snow and rubbish removal.

3.) Community Development Dept. Update on ISTEIA Projects and Others

Cambridge Common Les reported that the planning process for the Common will start again soon. A capital budget request is in for \$90,000 which would cover the design fee for the area of and around the Common. It also includes a comprehensive public process to be led by a mediator. The goal is a compromise between the various interests- bicycles, pedestrians, trees, and historical; he said it is still the City Council's desire to prohibit bicycles on the Common but an alternative needs to be found. This will be followed by a reapplication for ISTEIA funds for construction.

Fresh Pond Parkway This project picks up where the current MDC project ends at the Concord Avenue rotary and carries it to Huron Avenue. The objective is to restore parkway quality. Sidewalks, historic light fixtures and plantings are included. Land belonging to the MDC, which over time has been paved over for parking, will be reclaimed to accommodate parkway and bikeway amenities. TAMS Consultants Inc. and Wallace Floyd Associates as subcontractor are working on the project. They expect to have preliminary proposals to react to by the end of March. Les also said that the Mass Highway Department will rebuild the Kingsley Park Bridge to coincide with the parkway project. Since it is in the parkway project area, TAMS Inc. will also look at possibilities to enhance the area of this bridge.

Lafayette Square This project is a realignment of roads at Massachusetts Avenue and Columbia, Main and Sidney Streets. The project removes the gas station and creates a new, oddly-shaped island. The curb lines have been set and the designers are currently working on the details of the new plaza. Les said it would be timely for the Committee to review this planting scheme in March. He said bicycle lanes and additional plantings on Mass Ave to the river are also planned.

Central Square Construction drawings for Central Square are complete and the project is out to bid. Construction is this spring and summer with a spring 1997 planting.



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Born, Davis, Duchay, Galluccio
Consent Order #25 Russell, Sullivan

Councillor Toomey re: Update on the
set up of the Tree Fund as a tax-exempt
trust fund.

Triantafillon CM-152

In City Council March 25, 1996.

Order adopted