

Notes from Boston Urban Forest Friends Meeting
Monday August 16th 2021, 11:00am-12:00pm

BUFF Website: <https://www.bostonforest.com/>

Community Updates

- **Lisa Beatman – Crane Ledge**
 - Coalition has been meeting with legislators
 - 2500 signatures on petition – need more from people who live close to the woods – anyone who lives in Mattapan, Hyde Park or Roslindale should sign the petition and send something to legislators
 - Comments need to be sent to BPDA by 8/27
 - Crane Ledge Woods/990 American Legion Update:
 - Hundreds of residents, labor unions, and affordable housing advocates oppose Lincoln Properties' proposed 270 market-rate rental units, ten building proposals with 415 asphalt surface parking spaces. This project would destroy 14 acres of the Crane Ledge Woods. Yet the Woods are still seriously at risk.
 - Please take these two immediate action steps:
 - 1. Submit your comments to the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) for the 990 American Legion Highway site (Crane Ledge Woods) with your opinion about the proposed project and your desired use of the land. You can either submit a short letter online at:
 - http://www.bostonplans.org/projects/development-projects/990-american-legion-highway#comment_Form
 - or you can email a longer one to Caitlin Coppinger at caitlin.coppinger@boston.gov. Either way, cc: your letter to the elected officials at the bottom of this notice.
 - * 2. Sign the petition:
<https://www.change.org/p/jcc-city-of-boston-ma-save-crane-ledge-woods>
- **Sarah Freeman – Shattuck Hospital/Franklin Park**
 - Need more people to understand and get involved
 - There isn't a design yet, despite what they say
 - Arborway yard bus facility is better location for the site
 - Shattuck Hospital, Franklin Park, Arborway Yard Bus Facility: project page on the Emerald Necklace Conservancy website:
 - "Planned Demolition of Shattuck Hospital: An Opportunity to Restore Franklin Park" - The Emerald Necklace Conservancy:
 - On the right side of the project page (link is below), under "Resources", there's a link to a presentation:
 - "Presentation: An Opportunity to Restore Greenspace to Franklin Park (PDF)"
 - Page 4 of the presentation shows how much of Franklin Park is no longer free & openly accessible parkland, and those acres are located along the Roxbury, Dorchester, Mattapan edges of the park.
 - If you agree with the presentation, sign onto the "Statement of Principles".
 - Oops! Here's the link for the Shattuck Hospital, Franklin Park & Arborway Yard:
<https://www.emeraldnecklace.org/restoration/advocacy/shattuck-hospital-franklin-park/>
- Signing moratorium on trees – Yvonne – lalira53@yahoo.com

Arroyo's Tree Ordinance Proposal

- <https://www.boston.gov/sites/default/files/file/2021/08/0858.PDF>
- Important piece is the "removal of private trees"
- Alison – urban forest committee is advisory only
- Get tree canopy volume not DBH replacement
- **Next steps**
 - Committee hearing on August 24 at 2pm - <https://www.boston.gov/public-notices/15761411>
 - BUFF – we should have a designated observer to the hearings and proceedings of the ordinance and make themselves known
 - We should get together talking and writing points for everyone to have to send stuff to their reps
 - What would 3 or 4 things in a template say?
 - Amount of fine is too small
 - Process needs to be streamlined
 - Issue of replacement – can't just be DBH – needs canopy area – requires arborist
 - Before permit/proposal – developers need to have arborist study of trees
- **Resources**
 - <https://www.mass.gov/doc/tree-bylaw-and-ordinance-guide/download>
 - <https://www.vibrantcitieslab.com/resources?type=&tag=ordinances&s=&sort=date-desc>

Notes from Tree Ordinance Proposal Discussion

- A lot of allowances
- For each offense under this ordinance the person in violation shall be subject to a ONLY a \$100 fine. - *The consensus is that it is too low!*
- Significant tree is 8 inches or more in DBH
- Sarah likes 1C
- 1B is weird – puts a lot of effort on advocates – isn't clear how the approval process would go
- Add a dollar amount for choosing to pay rather than replacing
- Aiming to avoid removal instead of focus on fines or paying instead of replacing trees
- Developers come, get rid of everything, build to sidewalk, have no greenspace, come up with "compromise," they don't care about trees, they care about square footage and driveways
- Separate rules for owner occupied vs big developments
- What is the incentive to preserve over removing and/or replacing? Is there a tax break or some other point?
- Really look at other cities ordinances – comparing cities – check with David on this research

Chat Log

From Speak for the Trees to Everyone: 11:03 AM

Should we get started?

From Debbie Munson to Everyone: 11:04 AM

Is there a link to the text of the ordinance? I only found the video

From David (he/him) - SFTT to Everyone: 11:05 AM

<https://www.boston.gov/sites/default/files/file/2021/08/0858.PDF>

From Me to David (he/him) - SFTT: (Direct Message) 11:06 AM

Do we record this meeting???

From Me to Natalie Merline, she/her: (Direct Message) 11:06 AM

Do we record this meeting???

From Natalie Merline, she/her to Me: (Direct Message) 11:07 AM

Usually not for these brainstorming sessions

I'll be taking notes though

From David (he/him) - SFTT to Me: (Direct Message) 11:07 AM

We can

From Me to Natalie Merline, she/her: (Direct Message) 11:07 AM

Okay, thank you!

From ivonne lalyre to Everyone: 11:11 AM

Thank you, Sarah and Lisa for keeping up the fight

From David (he/him) - SFTT to Everyone: 11:12 AM

Link to Arroyo's Proposal: <https://www.boston.gov/sites/default/files/file/2021/08/0858.PDF>

From Lisa Beatman to Everyone: 11:12 AM

Crane Ledge Woods/990 American Legion Update:

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From Me to Natalie Merline, she/her: (Direct Message) 11:12 AM

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From David (he/him) - SFTT to Everyone: 11:12 AM

<https://www.boston.gov/sites/default/files/file/2021/08/0858.PDF>

From Sarah Freeman to Everyone: 11:14 AM

Shattuck Hospital, Franklin Park, Arborway Yard Bus Facility: project page on the Emerald Necklace Conservancy website:

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If you agree with the presentation, sign onto the "Statement of Principles".

From Dorothee Alsentzer to Everyone: 11:16 AM

I hope we can also reserve time to plan specific advocacy action steps

From David (he/him) - SFTT to Everyone: 11:17 AM

The link to the hearing can be found here: <https://www.boston.gov/public-notices/15761411>

From Sarah Freeman to Everyone: 11:18 AM

Oops! Here's the link for the Shattuck Hospital, Franklin Park & Arborway Yard:

<https://www.emeraldnecklace.org/restoration/advocacy/shattuck-hospital-franklin-park/>

From Kristine A. to Everyone: 11:43 AM

#1

From Lisa Beatman to Everyone: 11:44 AM

Nishaila - what Charles River watershed perspective/feedback do you have about the tree ordinance?

From Nishaila Porter to Everyone: 11:50 AM

We are focused on strengthening the requirements on private properties. Especially because we think this will probably be the thing chipped away at. I think our breakout group touched on some good points of separating out business property and residential property fees and strengthening waiver replacement requirement. And reevaluating definitions of a significant tree removal and replacement of tree with DBH

From Sarah Freeman to Everyone: 11:55 AM

Belated addition to group 1: Can there be an incentive to preserve exiting mature trees on private property? (rather than assume they will be removed, and then focus on payment or replacement)

From Louise Robbins to Everyone: 11:55 AM

I just took a quick look at the Austin tree ordinance. It has stricter regulations for "heritage trees" (DBH >24 inches of designated species). Should we consider something like that?

https://library.municode.com/tx/austin/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=TIT25LADE_CH25-8_EN_SUBCHAPTER_BTRNAARPRENSP_ART1TRNAARPR_DIV2PRTR_S25-8-624APCR

From Lisa Beatman to Everyone: 11:57 AM

Aug. 24 Tree ordinance hearing info link: <https://www.boston.gov/public-notices/15761411>

From Sarah Freeman to Everyone: 11:58 AM

Questions: What has worked well in other cities? Also: I think other cities have more arborists.

From Louise Robbins to Everyone: 11:58 AM

Also, note that the ordinance excludes "invasive plants" which are not defined. And Norway maple is in the official list of prohibited plants. They are invasive--but in my neighborhood many of the biggest trees are Norway maples.

From Debbie Munson to Everyone: 12:01 PM

Good point about Norway maples! They maybe invasive but sometimes they are most of the mature trees.

I have to drop off, great discussion!

From Lisa Beatman to Everyone: 12:03 PM

A BUFF checklist of specific recommended changes to the ordinance.

From Dorothee Alsentzer to Me: (Direct Message) 12:07 PM

I need to drop off. Thank you for leading this discussion. I am happy to continue to help with drafting, etc. Please let me know how I can contribute. I'm at dalsentzer@gmail.com

From ivonne lalyre to Everyone: 12:07 PM

Thank you, Alison, Yes.

From Dorothee Alsentzer to Everyone: 12:07 PM

I need to drop off. Thank you all for this important discussion! Be well!

From Julie Brandlen to Everyone: 12:08 PM

Hi, I need to drop off, thank you everyone!

From ivonne lalyre to Everyone: 12:11 PM

Ditto, Sarah

From Nancy Aleo to Everyone: 12:12 PM

For fine, I suggest a calculation based on cost of project vs a set amount. Large developers can pay unless it is significant.

From ivonne lalyre to Everyone: 12:12 PM

Thank you, Celeste

From Alison Pultinas to Everyone: 12:12 PM

great idea Nancy!

From ivonne lalyre to Everyone: 12:14 PM

Comparing the ordinance to other scities is paramount to our comments.

lalira53@yahoo.com

From Alison Pultinas to Everyone: 12:14 PM

Include a clear definition of private property

From ivonne lalyre to Everyone: 12:15 PM

Thank you, SFFT for this discussion

From Arnetta E Baty to Everyone: 12:15 PM

It is great to compare with other states and the fines that have been issued, however what about the cities with the areas of MA? What about the Health issues on people who need the trees cut down?

From Lisa Beatman to Everyone: 12:15 PM

This new tree ordinance needs to establish standards based on the newest climate change realities. That will be a model for needed updates to the BPDA codes.

From Louise Robbins to Everyone: 12:15 PM

thanks!

From David (he/him) - SFTT to Everyone: 12:16 PM

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/tree-bylaw-and-ordinance-guide/download>

<https://www.vibrantcitieslab.com/resources?type=&tag=ordinances&s=&sort=date-desc>

From Celeste Walker to Everyone: 12:16 PM

Thanks everyone!