

Notes from Boston Urban Forest Friends Meeting Tuesday October 13th 2020, 11:30am-12:30pm

New TerraCorps Members at SFTT

- Natalie Merline is the community engagement and youth education coordinator. Natalie will be taking over the organization and support of BUFF to build it into an even stronger coalition of people and organizations who care about the urban tree canopy and equity surrounding the canopy.
- Elizabeth Lohr is the community engagement coordinator. She will be taking over tree inventory. If you would like to be involved, learn more at <https://www.sfttbos.org/branchingout> or reach out to Elizabeth at elizabeth@sfttbos.org.

Community Updates

- Bill Labich (Highstead) - Wildlands, Woodlands, Farmlands, and Communities (<https://www.wildlandsandwoodlands.org/2020-rcp-network-gathering>) is hosting a virtual **Regional Conservation Partnership Network Gathering on November 19th** with 3 pre-gathering webinars (Oct 28, Nov 5, Nov 13) and would like some urban forest groups to participate to increase their urban forest focus. In addition, the Northeast Forest Network (<http://www.standupforforests.org>), which focuses on issue based advocacy and communicating key issues to key audiences, would like more urban forest groups to join.
- Patricia Alvarez (Southwest Boston CDC) - They are currently in the process of getting an acre of land that is wooded to be purchased by the city to be part of Sherrin Woods Urban Wild.
- Karen Mauney-Brodek (Emerald Necklace Conservancy) - They are in the final phase of a 2 phase project on tree pruning & tree care on the Emerald Necklace in Franklin Park.
- Yvonne Lalyre (Friends of Melnea Cass Boulevard) - There will be an event for **Melnea Cass Blvd on October 24th from 1-3pm** to have as many people come and line both sides of the boulevard with signs to stand with the trees and people of Roxbury. We will be **meeting at 90 Windsor St** and spreading out from there. Flyer is attached to the email.
- David Meshoulam (SFTT) - SFTT along with Accenture, Tree Eastie, NOAH Youth Organizers, Eastie Farm, and MOF will be **giving away 75 FREE trees** to East Boston Residents (red oaks, yoshino cherries, and eastern red buds). There will be a drive-thru event on **October 24th from 10-1**, and residents can register for a tree at <http://tinyurl.com/eastietreegiveaway>. Please spread the word!
- Pam Sinotte - There has been some concerning developments regarding the trees in Roslindale, where the city has planted a large number of trees but not maintained and watered them enough, so many of them are dying. Public engagement could help this effort, so we need to make sure contracts are amenable to public engagement.

DRAFT Guiding Principles

- Need to add "public health" to #2.

- Education needs to be part of the principles, whether that be through a new principle or adding it to an existing one (potentially #5).
- Action steps need to come next based on these guiding principles, especially about a commitment to building a diverse group.
- We need to make sure that both the value of trees and the value of people are central to these guiding principles, and that people are explicitly stated. We care about trees because we care about people, and this framework can help us reach out to communities.
- **Action item** - create a committee surrounding these guiding principles. If you would like to be part of this committee, reach out to Natalie at natalie@sfttbos.org.

New City Documents

- [RFP for Urban Forest Plan](#)
- [Tree Canopy Assessment](#)
- There is a grey area surrounding what is private vs public land (e.g., BPDA land), so we could potentially look at the base GIS layer to see the distinction the city made. The conversation around city development needs to have trees as part of it, including tree maintenance and care.

Structure of the group - committees

- From our last conversation around committees, it seems as though there were too many and it was hard to have a focus without the guiding principles. We need to reform the committees, and Natalie will send out a google form for everyone to fill out about the committee structure and what committees people want to be involved in so look out for that soon.
- The **Stewardship Committee is meeting** this week on **Thursday at 9am** to discuss best practices around an adopt-a-tree program.
- Committees need to be structured in a way that we develop an idea, execute it, and move onto another item.
- A committee could focus on starting a compost program to help save dying trees and that could incorporate education of communities. This is something to look into and assign to a committee.
- We also need to create a standard monthly meeting time. This will be part of the google form Natalie sends out, so make sure to fill it out so we know the best time for these meetings.

Next action steps

- Natalie - send out poll for committees and monthly meeting
- Everyone - fill out the form
- Contact Natalie to be part of guiding principles committee
- Create action items that align with guiding principles

Next Meeting - Friday November 13th at 11am