

## **BUFF Meeting Notes 4/14/2023**

### **Community Updates:**

#### **Sarah Freeman**

No news on the Shattuck Site, work is still continuing to talk to city and state decision makers  
City officials are not sharing the proposal. JP Library - Wednesday at 4pm, Kids Club Earth  
Protectors, reading a book called 1 Million Trees

#### **Aaalana Feaster**

Update on Tree Ordinance - EHIWAC, Frank has incorporated a redlined version of tree  
ordinance with their blue lined version. The group is trying to meet with Arroyo, not sure if it's  
gonna happen. Circle back to goals and principles, highlighting 10 main things they hope to see  
in the Tree Ordinance. Working session is on the 20th, they will be sending out emails for next  
steps.

#### **Lisa Beatman**

CLWC - budget season, things cost money, what do we want the city to spend our tax dollars  
on. Hyde Park community input board, open forum about the Wu administration, inviting all to  
come to talk about what your priorities are, parks, green space, basic services (info in chat)  
Meeting April 20, at 6pM

#### **Anne McHugh**

Update on neighboring town, Trees as a public good, tree preservation efforts in communities all  
over the state, Wakefield to preserve 15+ acres of woodlands, construction to begin and do  
harm to build a district vocational school. Breakheart Reservation, weekly saturday stand-outs  
to oppose the destruction. Information was shared with the BUFF group.

#### **Susan Stamps**

Arlington Tree Committee - They expanded their mandates, gotten more active in town,  
concerning the discussions around the MBTA zoning requirements, where arlington is required o  
zone 2046 multifamily units, a divide in development from people who want the housing and  
people who are environmentalist, they've dived right into the conversation, attending meetings  
and talking to the planning dept, that trees and housing can both be done. Trees are not  
expendable.

#### **Celeste Walker**

Boston Parks Dept, 7 year draft of open space land, comments open until may 21st, important  
piece of strategy, it's a year overdue. Boston Parks Department website to make comments,  
please weigh in.

### **Louise Johnson**

The trees, the city and DCR plants, notices that most of the gators (watering bags) are left empty, all along VFW parkway (100 or more) they are all empty. Q: Louise wants to know how we find out what the plans are for watering? Is there a schedule, who does it, can we remind them when they are not doing it?

A: Claire Corcoran, in a similar conversation with the COB, we've been told that when volunteers start filling water bags, the contractors don't like that.

A: Todd Mistor, anything that has to do with DCR, the newly planted trees are under contract, to continue to do the watering, the contractors use an app that would record them arriving at the trees and doing the work.

### **Erica Holm**

Watering with DCR varies by planting project, problems with gator bags being empty, unusual for us to have 80 degree days in April, 1000 trees may have a large contract, DCR updates tree maintenance manuals, they're looking at 3-5 years of maintenance. Find out what planting project it is, and who's leading it. If bags are empty, the contracts may not have started yet.

### **Speak for the Trees Updates**

David - April is an exciting and busy month, a tasting of some of the events that we are running next week for Arbor Day! Visit [treeboston.org](http://treeboston.org) to learn more about our upcoming events!!!!

Victoria mentions the talks (in person and hybrid) Jerel discussed the Savor the Square event.(4/29) Georine from Black Forest, Loesch Park (4/28) Claire mentioned two more tree giveaways 5/13 and 6/3. Excite around the trees we've sourced for all events.

### **Today is Speak for the Trees 5th Anniversary!!!!**

Update from David - Briefing scheduled (on May 4th at the Mass State House Rm 4280 Act Establishing the municipal reforestation program, this is a statewide effort. Many municipalities' voices need to be heard. Update to chapter 87 (public shade tree act, oldest in the country) the bill is in need of an update. Lots of support around the commonwealth.

### **Hilani Morales**

Asking about the Brooke Charter School - proposal to add the artificial turf, concerned about the implications, what it means for herself, her son and the children in the area. Aalana Feaster gave a summary of the project.

### **Oliver Bouchier**

Brought up the artificial turf at Malcolm X park, city wide mandate to stop putting down the artificial turn. David and Aalana added their comments. The parcel in Mattapan was going through the city process, it doesn't matter who owns the land, COB residents will still be impacted, the group had references from years ago. How permanent decisions are being made about the community with outdated information is horrific. They are ignoring science or acting like it doesn't matter when it comes to certain populations. (See [video](#) for additional comments)

The BUFF survey [link](#) was posted in the chat

Here's the [video](#) from our meeting

Please [register](#) for our next BUFF meeting