

LORAX
Draft Minutes
October 2, 2017

Attendees: Councillor Dibble, Chris Burke, Kirt Rieder, Flora Tonthat, Polly Wilbert

Observers: Darleen Melis, Jeff Cohen, Darleen Melis, Sandi Power

Chris Burke presents letter of viewpoints on ordinance. Comments from Task Force members are that editing has come toward points in his letter.

Discussion re Planning Board responsibility re trees and proposed Commission oversight of/responsibilities for trees.

KR: Twist arms to get street trees from developers. Discussion re revolving tree fund/donation fund. Importance of having the replacement fund for long-term.

Mention of trees lost on West Ave. following changes in plan to allow widening of street.

SD: Couple of meetings coming up (not yet scheduled) **OLLA Subcommittee** re gas leak ordinance. Reimbursement for loss, dead, damaged trees. Testing w/meter tree replacement locations. 37 tested/13 gas leaks. 30-40 locations, moving to secondary locations, 10 tested, 2 gas leaks. 5 years to make repairs if not in a building. Drilling vent holes is okay. Most repairs at 4.9 years. Recoup lost gas through payment of whole gas cost by rate payers. Not incentivized to fix leaks. 4-8% leak near his house. March St. 40-50% leak, dug it up, did not repair it. Please come to two meetings. SD will send a copy of the new ordinance to the Committee. Will need meeting and **vote of the City Council**.

Notes re follow up:

Nov. 14 or 15 meeting on gas leaks. Tell Steve when Maura Healey will be on WGBH-TV. State law (Joan/Paul) can't invoice for lost gas.

Conversation with Maura Healey?

Two years for treated by certified arborist page 4

Remind/Amanda re sending Newton tree

Jeff Cohen's experience with private contractor and drainage work through roots interfering with sewer line.

Review and edit of penalty language from set fines to a fine based on diameter of trees.