



**ELLIS South End Neighborhood Association**

**Neighborhood Services Summary**

**October 2020**

<b>Committee Chair:</b> Ellen Sheets	<b>Committee Members:</b> Carol Trust, Patty Brennan, Wendy Hamm, Julie Arnheiter, Cheryl Dickinson, Liz Morgan, Chris Block, Cathy Phillips, Stacy Koeppel	<b>Meeting Schedule:</b> Zoom on request
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**Mission Statement:**  
The mission of the Neighborhood Services Committee is to improve the quality of life in the Ellis neighborhood by working with appropriate stakeholders to enhance the beauty, safety, and efficiency of the neighborhood. Its activities will encompass support of the Ellis neighborhood’s tree canopy, annual holiday wreath hangings, parks, safe transportation for people, bikes and motor vehicles, trash issues, parking, and crime. Each spring and fall we promote and participate in the South End's "Cleanup" project sponsored by the city.

**Meeting Notes – February 9, 2021**

**Heads of Subcommittees:**

**Transportation/Safety (TS) – Chris Block**  
**Opioid/public safety/homelessness (OPH) – Patty Brennan**  
**Tree canopy (TC) – Stacy Koeppel**  
**Crite Park Renovation (CPR) – Cheryl Dickinson**  
**Holiday Wreath (HW) – Wendy Hamm and Julie Arnheiter**

**Tree Canopy notes:** (Wendy, Julie, Liz, Carol, Patty Brennan, Cathy Phillips, Stacy) General discussion about the tree canopy in the Ellis, focusing on empty tree-pits, newly planted trees, adopt a tree program and Parks Dept. communication.

There were many items related to the tree canopy. This is an important part of what ESENA can do given that we are in the midst of a global warming/climate crisis. Every tree is essential. Notes from Cathy follow below:

The link to see Boston 311 requests is here. You can search on any criteria and address: <https://311.report/> I used it to find tree requests, but this is also a good way to find out what people are complaining about in our neighborhood.

Have created a list for new tree requests for Ellis streets and presented to the committee for their review and indication whether trees have been replaced or not. (please provide your feedback to Cathy prior to our next meeting for trees abutting your condo/on your street).

Cathy presented updates on The Adopt A Tree program draft created by Boston Urban Forest Friends: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/18xgljpewMqm9bGLt7CUbSaktwzbPpKmlsR6SpXfOViU/edit> This is their working draft, but it contains a lot of great information and will make a great roadmap for our program. Committee members: please reach out to Cathy for any updates/suggestions you might have. The committee also added that Tree Pits should be part of the ESENA Adopt a Tree program.

Here's what the city says about how to request a tree: <https://www.boston.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation/how-get-tree-planted-city-land>

And tree care: <https://www.boston.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation/caring-bostons-urban-forest>

**Transportation/Safety Notes:** (Chris, Julie, Liz, Ellen) General discussion about street safety/major thoroughfare projects that Boston is undertaking to increase bike lanes.

Tremont Street redesign issues will heat up once a contractor is assigned to the project – likely this spring. In the next six months: short term to evaluate the placement of various bike lane markers with an eye on the more permanent installments happening down Columbus Ave past Centre Street where concrete barriers are being built. Will these be used in the ESENA footprint? Other items for the committee in the coming six months: street/walking safety, blue bike use/abuse, street crossing safety (walk light timing/automatic appearance of walk sign on regular cycle at busy cross walks), connect with South End City liaison Kim regarding status of bike lanes throughout Ellis and maintenance of lanes after snowstorms.

**Opioid/public safety/homelessness Notes:** (Patty, Liz, Wendy, Ellen) General discussion around becoming more visibly involved with South End Forum and their efforts regarding the crisis.

Committee will reach out to our South End City liaison Kim (the new Fascia) regarding City's current programs in our neighborhood regarding homelessness and substance abuse.

**Crite Park Notes:** (Cheryl) Cheryl provided an update on ongoing issues with CPA not supporting the current plan for the park. Cheryl has garnered City support which she is using to counter CPA – meeting next Monday.

**Holiday Wreath Notes:** (Stacy, Julie, Wendy, Patty) it is a wrap with all wreaths down...right? Maybe one still left. Committee considering other ways to add beauty to the Ellis neighborhood this coming spring. We all know that the City will have a spring cleaning but are there tree pit plantings or other ways to add beauty/color to the neighborhood? A push for planting boxes at businesses?

Notes from David at SFTT regarding other ways for people/groups to participate in their programs:

For additional partnerships, we're so new that a lot of that isn't on our website. A few options are:

- 1) Tree inventory work of street trees (Elizabeth, our TerraCorps member, can help with this.)
  - 2) Hosting and/or supporting a tree giveaway project for residents to plant trees in their yards. This could be either in your neighborhood or supporting our work in other neighborhoods.
  - 3) Helping us recruit board members and/or donors and/or companies and foundations who can support our work.
  - 4) We're developing educational material and are looking for schools and teachers to partner with.
  - 5) Connecting us with more local neighborhood groups with similar interests and passions.
  - 6) Developing a community tree walk (details forthcoming - Elizabeth can help with this too.)
  - 7) Helping us better understand Bostonians' relationships to trees by taking a survey (Elizabeth is working on this).
  - 8) Once we have collateral material for education and outreach (door hangers, etc....) we'd love to share those.
- I think the Adopt-A-Tree program will be great if we can make the pieces come together.

**Upcoming Dates: Next Meeting: March 9th at 5PM**