

Advisory Committee on Trees - October 20, 2020

Meeting via Zoom, Called to order 7:30 PM

Present: Brian Townsend (ACT liaison, Public Works and Parks Assistant Director and Zoom Host), Charles Jackman (chair), Ethel Dutky (recorder), Leeann Irwin (Forest Preserve Advisory Board member), Alvin Wilson (tech support for Ethel Dutky), Bob Trumbule (member).

Minutes from September 8, 2020 meeting were approved.

Old Business

1 – Visit to the Forest Preserve on November 5.

We will meet at the Forest Preserve sign at 10 AM along Northway Road. There was discussion about procedures to register a significant tree, which consists of measuring it and submitting the data. Leeann Irwin volunteered to look into this. The group suggested she consult with Bill Phelan. Brian volunteered that Public Works will lend us the devices, which are used to measure height and crown spread. Leeann will report back to ACT and the Forest Preserve Advisory Board with this data.

2 – Eleanor Roosevelt Memorial Tree (ERMT) Dedication Ceremony

Charles reported that he and Brian attended the City Council meeting on Monday, September 14, where there was a discussion of Arbor Day (celebrated April 22, 2020). In the discussion about a date to have a dedication ceremony for the ERMT tree (an American Holly planted by Public Works personnel on April 22, 2020), several council members expressed a desire to have the dedication in 2021 in hopes that a more normal gathering could be held. ACT agreed that it would be a good plan to do a dedication of the holly tree, possibly for Arbor Day in 2021.

3 – Public Works Tree Planting plans

Brian reported that he contacted PEPCO about doing tree plantings. Ashton Manor will be doing the tree planting. Bob suggested that Public Works check with the Maryland Department of Agriculture that Ashton Manor has a current registration. Ashton Manor did the tree planting at Greenbelt Station. Unfortunately, the builder had received damaged trees which also had very heavy scale infestations. These trees have been removed.

New Business

1 – Issue about removal of trees as part of the renovation of the parking area at Buddy Attick Lake Park.

There is a problem with removal of the pines which provide a buffer between the parking lot and the Buddy Attick Park. Some citizens raised a protest about removal of these pines. There was concern expressed about damage to these pines during the renovation of the parking lot. This renovation is to correct drainage problems. Disturbance and/or change of grade near the trees would damage their roots and require their removal within the next 5 years. Brian shared that this is an item for discussion at an upcoming City Council meeting on October 26 on the renovation plans for this area.

ACT will gather with Brian at the Public Works building at 1:30 PM on Monday, October 26, to review the plans and visit the site. ACT has concerns about leaving the old pines in place where they could be damaged by construction.

One objective of the renovation of the parking area is to correct problems of runoff water.

2 - City Council Work Session in January 2021.

Bob Trumbule announced that City Council has planned a work session in January 2021 to address issues of water run-off and invasive plant control in the vicinity of the Vegetable Garden Plots near the GHI Office.

Move to adjourn at 8:30.

Planned field trip on October 26 at 1:30PM at Public Works.

Next Meeting via Zoom on November 17, at 7PM

respectfully submitted by Ethel Dutky