

Advisory Committee on Trees – December 15, 2020

Call to order at 7:20 PM via ZOOM

Present: Brian Townsend (ACT liaison, Public Works and Parks Assistant Director and Zoom Host), Charles Jackman (Chair), Bob Trumbule (member), Ethel Dutky (recorder)

Reviewed and approved November 17, 2020 minutes with corrections.

Old Business

1 – Representative from ACT on the Greenbelt SCMAGLEV Opposition Task Force.

The Greenbelt City Council has requested a possible representative from ACT to serve on the Greenbelt SCMAGLEV Opposition Task Force. After some discussion, it was decided that Charles Jackman would be the ACT representative on this Task Force with Bob Trumbule as the back-up representative.

2 – Tree planting by PEPCO.

The tree planting by PEPCO scheduled for the Fall of 2020 has been postponed until the Spring of 2021. This means that the stumps on Ivy Lane can now be removed by the scheduled planting.

New Business

1 – Second Forest Preserve walk on December 6.

There were six participants in the second Forest Preserve walk on December 6. Three were members of the Forest Preserve Advisory Board, two were members of ACT (B. Trumbule and C. Jackman), and one was a member of the Woodlands Committee of GHI. The dimensions (circumference in inches at chest height, height, and crown spread) were measured or estimated for nine significant trees including one pitch pine, three tulip poplars, three red oaks, one white oak, and one red maple. Two more walks are planned for different parts of the Forest Preserve in the spring of 2021.

2 – Beaver damage to crape myrtle.

Brian Townsend reported that a crape myrtle was damaged by a beaver on Maplewood Court, close to Greenbelt Lake where the beaver probably lives. Beavers eat the growing (cambium) part of the tree bark. Also, since the incisor teeth of beavers are growing continuously, these animals need to gnaw on trees to sharpen these teeth and reduce their size. Trees in the area will be monitored to see if there is any further beaver damage.

3 – Public Works purchased trees.

Brian Townsend reported that the Greenbelt Public Works purchased 200 trees (50 black oak, 50 persimmon, 50 buttonbush, and 50 red osier dogwood). These trees will be planted in the spring of 2021.

Next Meeting, via Zoom: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 at 7PM
Adjourn 8:45PM. Submitted by Charles Jackman