

Advisory Committee on Trees – January 19, 2021

Call to order 7:13PM via Zoom

Present: Brian Townsend (staff liaison and assistant Director Public Works and Parks), Ethel Dutky (recorder), Charles Jackman (chair), Robert Trumbule (member)

Reviewed and approved December 15, 2020 minutes with corrections.

Old Business

1. MAGLEV Opposition Task Force

Regarding information about Environmental Impact Statement for the MAGLEV: Kevin Carpenter-Driscoll (Public Works) provided a web address to read the Environmental Impact Statement. Charles plans to attend the meeting. The MAGLEV will come up out of the ground in Greenbelt from a deep tunnel into the Forest Preserve. Then it will be above ground as it goes through BARC USDA.

New Business

1. Arbor Day plans

Arbor Day was discussed. The state of Maryland celebrates Arbor Day on the first Wednesday of April, which would be April 7 this year. It was agreed that Greenbelt could have a low key event on the following Saturday, April 10.

Charles suggested that we wait until fall to do a group activity. Bob and Ethel agree that fall would be better to do the formal dedication of the new Eleanor Roosevelt tree (speeches, reception and refreshments).

Additional discussion of a tree planting event: Brian mentioned that many trees have died in city playgrounds at Crescent and Southway and near the Greenbelt Museum. The trees could be planted using only ACT and City Council. There are many spots for trees in this area and in the park near the Library and the Community Center.

Charles suggested this would be a good activity for April 10 to plant 7 to 10 trees. This would include White Oaks and putting several trees at 20 feet apart. Bob suggested getting more 'Shantung Maples' for fall color. The one Shantung Maple near the Community Center has been damaged. Ethel suggested the native Sweet Bay Magnolia for wet sites. Brian will check for other planned activities for April 10. Bob volunteered to get in touch with the National Arboretum to see if Greenbelt could trial some new introductions. We continued discussion on new cultivars. Ethel suggested we find at least one site for a group of blight resistant American Chestnuts.

Adjourn 8:20 PM

Next meeting, via Zoom: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 at 7PM

Submitted by Ethel Dutky