

Advisory Committee on Trees – April 20, 2021

Call to order 7:13 PM via Zoom

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

Not present: Ethel Dutky (recorder)

Reviewed and approved March 15, 2021 minutes with corrections.

Old Business

1. Arbor Day (April 10, 2021)

The Arbor Day planting was a success. Five City Council members (Emmett Jordan, Judith Davis, Leta Mach, Silke Pope, and Ed Putens), two ACT members (Bob Trumbule and Charles Jackman), and four Public Works employees (Jason Martin and three other Horticulture crew members) were involved in the planting. Four 'Rising Sun' redbuds and three 'Wildfire' black gum (tupelo) were planted near the Community Center in pre-dug holes.

2. Other tree plantings

Brian Townsend reported that PEPCO was finished with the tree re-plantings on Ivy Lane. He also noted that the Public Works Horticulture crew will be planting 37 trees in various parts of Greenbelt including Gingko, Princeton Elm, Dogwood, Yoshino Cherry, and Crab Apple trees.

New Business

1. Cicada emergence

Bob Trumbule reported that Brood X of the 17-year Cicadas will be emerging soon in our area. Some branches in young trees may be damaged because of the eggs, which will be laid in abundance. About the only defense against Cicadas is to put a finely meshed net over a young tree. The peak of the Cicada emergence will be from about mid-May through mid-June.

2. Pruning of trees near Greenbelt Community Garden Club plots

It was noted that fireflies prefer the edges of woods as do a number of other animals including box turtles. Thus, the need for pruning some trees near garden areas also helps certain wildlife.

Adjourn 8:35 PM

Next meeting, via Zoom: Monday, May 18, 2021 at 7PM

Submitted by Charles Jackman