

Advisory Committee on Trees – May 18, 2021

Call to order 7:10 PM via Zoom

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

Reviewed and approved April 20, 2021 minutes with corrections.

Old Business

1. PEPCO tree plantings

Brian Townsend reported that PEPCO was finished with the tree re-plantings.

New Business

1. Public Works tree plantings and pruning

Brian Townsend reported that the Public Works Horticulture crew will be planting four Memorial trees in the next week. All new tree plantings are nearly finished for Public Works in this fiscal year. Some pruning will take place in the buffer zone around the Greenbelt Community Garden Club plots this year.

2. Climate Emergency Resolution

The proposed Climate Emergency Resolution, which will be considered by the Greenbelt City Council at an upcoming meeting was discussed. The Resolution declares a climate emergency and calls for an immediate emergency mobilization to restore a safe climate. Over four pages of the Resolution detail the climate problem, which the world is currently experiencing. The last sentence declares: **“Resolved, The City Council declares a climate emergency and calls for an immediate emergency and calls for an immediate emergency mobilization to restore a safe climate.”**

ACT members generally agreed with the Resolution, although it was unclear to the group exactly what “an immediate emergency mobilization” would entail.

3. Tree canopy enhancement program

Charles Jackman noted an item on p. 11 of the Greenbelt News Review (May 13, 2021 issue) under the discussion about Public Works budget by the City Council. Here it was noted that Councilmember Judith Davis asked that a “tree canopy enhancement program” be added to the list of possible additions. This program would pay residents to plant trees.

It was unclear if the other City Council members supported this proposed program.

Adjourn 8:30 PM

Next meeting at Buddy Attick Park in person: Tuesday, June 22, 2021 at 7PM

Submitted by Charles Jackman