

Advisory Committee on Trees - September 20, 2022

Present: Charles Jackman (Chair), Ethel Dutky (recorder), Brian Townsend (Liaison and Assistant Director Public Works and Parks)

Called to order 7:15PM.

Reviewed minutes from August 9, 2022. Accepted as corrected.

Old Business

1 – Recommended Tree Species appropriate to Plant near Streets

We reviewed the list of street trees (ACT Report #2022-1), added a couple of species, and approved it. The list will next be sent to the Greenbelt City Council.

2 – Damage to Trees from the July 12, 2022, Storm.

There is still a lot of storm damage in landscapes, parks and woodlands that needs to be cleaned up. Brian described the continuing work to clean up the storm damage to trees.

New Business

1 – There will be a conference on October 11, the 27th Annual Community Forestry Workshop, to be held in Westminster, MD.

Brian Townsend and Bob Trumbule will be attending.

2 – Urban Tree Summit (Montgomery County, MD)

Charles attended part of this conference via Zoom. He found a couple of the talks especially interesting. The speakers were from the Netherlands. One technology mentioned was the use of moisture sensors to help trees survive their early years. Another was “Tiny Forests” where school children planted small plantings in small parcels of community land.

3 – Letter in the Greenbelt News Review on August 11 by Xavier Courouble.

He quoted Charles Jackman regarding Greenbelt's tree canopy of 62% (measured in 2007) and suggested an updated tree canopy assessment. We discussed this idea and concluded that Public Works is already replacing damaged trees. Also, Beltway Plaza is planning a major upgrade. The Greenbelt Public Works staff will advise on this issue.

4 - American Chestnut groves.

Ethel is very interested in planting several groves of blight resistant

American Chestnuts in Greenbelt parks and forests. The blight resistant genes are present in the seeds, so seedlings would carry the disease resistance. Brian will look over possible sites.

5 - October 15 is Greenbelt's Fall Fest in Schrom Hills Park.

Brian will ask Kevin Carpenter-Driscoll if he would like to have ACT participate in a Significant Tree Walk in Schrom Hills Park. Ethel, Charles, and Bob expressed interest in helping to lead it as we have done in past years. Brian will share his handout that was used on the last Significant Tree Walk (pre-pandemic).

Next meeting is October 25 at 7 PM at Public Works.

Respectfully submitted by Ethel Dutky