

Advisory Committee on Trees – November 14, 2023

Present: Brian Townsend (Liaison and Assistant Director Public Works), Charles Jackman (Chair), Robert Trumbule (member), Ethel Dutky (recorder)
Called to order 7:10 PM

The October 3, 2023, ACT Meeting minutes were approved as corrected.

Old Business

1 - Update on a second application period for the Tree Canopy Grant.

A decision on whether to have an extra Tree Canopy Grant application period or not is still pending.

2 –Tree planting near Greenbriar Condominiums.

Brian Townsend noted that 22 Ginkgo trees and 22 American elm trees will arrive at Greenbelt Public Works on Thursday (Nov. 16). These trees will be replacing 38 Bradford pear trees and will be planted the following week (Nov. 20-24) along Hanover Parkway near the Greenbriar Condominiums.

3 – PEPCO pruning in the City of Greenbelt

PEPCO is still pruning trees near power lines. PEPCO will continue this work into the new year (2024).

New Business

1 – Directional boring

Brian Townsend noted that there would be some directional boring in the City of Greenbelt in 2024 as a result of a new fiber optics system linking the City's various Departments.

2 – Forestry Workshop in Westminster, MD on Tuesday, Oct. 17, 2023

Bob Trumbule attended the Forestry Workshop this year and gave a brief report: He noted that there were talks on various subjects concerning trees. One talk focused on diseases and insects, which are of concern. Some of these issues include: 1) crepe myrtle bark scale; 2) black sooty mold on trees indicating sucking insects (aphids, etc.), which can damage trees; 3) elm zigzag sawflies, which can damage elms and willows; 4) box tree moths, which can cause heavy defoliation of boxwood plants; 5) vascular streak die-back, which can cause problems for redbud, maple, and dogwood trees; and 6) beech leaf disease, which can affect beech trees. There was a talk about big trees in the state of Maryland, which included a National Champion black mulberry tree in Carroll County where the Forestry Workshop was held. Other talks at the workshop as well as demonstrations were quite informative.

3 – Mid-Atlantic Nursery Trade Show (MANTS).

Bob Trumbule and Brian Townsend noted that the next Mid-Atlantic Nursery Trade Show (MANTS) will be held Jan. 10-12, 2024 at the Baltimore Convention Center. The exhibitors at MANTS have material and information dealing with all types of plants (including trees). Both Bob and Brian are planning on attending.

Adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Next ACT meeting – Tuesday, January 16, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,
Charles Jackman