

Advisory Committee on Trees – May 21, 2024

Present: Brian Townsend (Liaison and Assistant Director Public Works), Charles Jackman (Chair), Robert Trumbule (member), Leeann Irwin (guest), Bill Phelan (guest), Catherine Plaisant (guest).

Called to order - 7:15 PM

The March 19, 2024, ACT Meeting minutes were approved as written.

Old Business

1 – Arbor Day Event on April 13, 2024 in Greenbelt.

The Arbor Day Event was discussed briefly. This Event took place in the South Cove area in Buddy Attick Park and included the planting of over 150 seedling trees. Protective tubes have been placed on some of the seedlings, however, more tubes are needed for the rest of the seedlings. So far, the planted trees have been doing well as there has been adequate rainfall.

New Business

1 – Resignation of long-time ACT member Ethel Dutky

C. Jackman read the letter from Mayor Emmett Jordan accepting the resignation of ACT member Ethel Dutky. Ethel had been a long time (18 years) member of ACT and had provided valuable contributions over the years, including many years of producing the ACT Meeting minutes. We thank Ethel for her many years of service on ACT.

2 – Buddy Attick Park Master Plan

B. Townsend sent out the latest draft of the Buddy Attick Park Master Plan to ACT members on May 20th (yesterday). This issue was discussed briefly. The Master Plan will be discussed in more detail at the next ACT meeting.

3 – Replacement of Bradford Pear trees on Hanover Parkway

B. Townsend reported that a contractor is working on the removal of 20 Bradford Pear trees on Hanover Parkway near the Eleanor Roosevelt High School (ERHS). These trees are being replaced with male Ginkgo Biloba trees and Princeton American Elm trees. This has been taking place near the ERHS entrance on Hanover Parkway and continuing on both sides of the street, ultimately ending at Mandan Road.

4 – PEPCO tree work

B. Townsend noted that a PEPCO tree contractor has removed 85 trees near power lines in Greenbelt. Replacement trees were supposed to be planted for these removed trees, however, this part of the work has not yet been completed. Public Works personnel have marked the spots for the replacement trees three separate times. It is unclear when the replacement trees will be planted or if any other PEPCO tree removal in Greenbelt will take place this year.

5 – Deodar Cedar tree lightning protection

B. Townsend reported that the Prince Georges County champion Deodar Cedar tree in Schrom Hills Park is scheduled to have lightning protection placed on it. This work is strongly supported by ACT members.

6 – Donation of Magnolia Ashei (Ashe’s Magnolia) seedling trees

Bill Phelan reported that he had about 100 Magnolia Ashei (Ashe’s Magnolia) seedling trees to be donated to the City of Greenbelt. B. Townsend noted that Public Works would be happy to take these trees and plant them next spring. The Ashe’s Magnolia is rare in nature and is endemic in the Florida Panhandle.

Adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Next ACT meeting – Tuesday, June 18, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,
Charles Jackman