

## **Advisory Committee on Trees – February 7, 2017**

Call to order 7PM

Present: Rachel Comte (guest, manager for Tree Master Plan), Brian Townsend (staff liaison), Ethel Dutky (recorder) Erin Josephitis (Environmental Coordinator), Charles Jackman (chair), Connor Roesler (Chesapeake Conservation Corps Coordinator), Bob Trumbule (ACT member), Bill Garren (citizen guest).

Jan. 2017 minutes approved with corrections

### **Old Business:**

**1 – Citizen visitor.** Tabled until she appears. She did not appear.

**2 – The large willow oak near the Community Center and the Library has been removed.**

Internal decay was extensive.

**3 – ACT Elections:**

Charles Jackman was re-elected as chair.

Ethel Dutky was re-elected as recorder.

### **New Business:**

#### **Tree Master Plan presented by Rachel Comte.**

Rachel requested each ACT member to introduce ourselves and explain our role on the committee. Ms Comte gave a brief review of her experience in Urban Planning. She will be doing another Urban Canopy Assessment for Greenbelt. She presented several detailed handouts summarizing the benefits and data for tree canopy in urban areas. Historical data for Greenbelt was presented in several pages of data which will be used as baseline data for the Tree Master Plan. The long term goals are to increase canopy cover and build a Sustainable Urban Forest. We had a good discussion of the goals and of our vision for the Master Plan.

We moved on to discuss the variety of programs in place in Greenbelt (eg CHEARS Food Forest) and in the planning stages. We explained the place that GHI woodland and common areas play, and the City's Forest Preserve. Brian described a re-planting plan for Breezewood Drive between Franklin Park and the Beltway Plaza parking area.

Ms. Comte requested that ACT develop a vision statement for the Tree Master Plan. We sent this vision statement to Ms Comte on Feb. 21.

#### **Soil Remediation Project presented by Connor Roessler.**

Connor is preparing a grant proposal for a Soil Remediation Project adjacent to Franklin Park. The soil consists of badly compacted heavy clay resulting in poor drainage. We discussed possible plants that will tolerate and help remediate these conditions. The project would utilize groups of volunteers to plant. The composted mulch produced at Northway field will be used as a soil amendment and mulch. One concern is that the time line is short. The goal is to start planting by May 5.

Adjourn 9:30 PM

Next Meeting Tuesday, March 28, 2017

Submitted by Ethel Dutky