

Advisory Committee on Trees - June 30, 2015

call to order at 7PM

present: Charles Jackman (chair); Brian Townsend (staff liaison); Ethel Dutky (recorder); Bill Phelan (guest).

Tree Issues – PEPCO Line clearance.

Brian showed us the detailed maps for tree trimming and removal. Public Works has objected to some removals. The maps propose removal of over 300 City trees plus about another 100 GHI trees and additional trees on private property. This is an excellent opportunity to put together a good re-planting program. PEPCO has marked several street plantings of Callery Pear for removal.

A lively discussion continued on drawing up a preferred list of small to medium size (18' to 30' height) suitable for planting near utility lines. PEPCO provided a list, but it was very vague, identifying the trees only to genus or by common name and including some shrubs. By the end of the meeting we had prepared a list of preferred replacement trees for under/near utility lines. This list is specific to cultivar. Substitutions are not acceptable except with Public Works approval. Cultivars have specific characteristics (pest and disease resistance, uniformity of size, etc.) which make them more durable in the landscape. The trees must also meet minimum size requirements. ACT advises that replacement policy should be related to replacement of the amount of canopy cover lost, rather than simply one young tree for each tree removed. It would require several young trees to replace one large tree. The tree list/report also includes local nursery sources for these trees. Charles will forward this list to Council in the form of an ACT Report.

On July 22 there will be a work session with City Council and PEPCO on the line clearance project.

Next ACT Meeting will be Tuesday, July 14 at 7PM

Adjourn at 9:30 PM

submitted by Ethel Dutky