

Advisory Committee on Trees – July 8, 2014

Present: Charles Jackman (chair), Brian Townsend (city liaison), Bob Trumbule, Ethel Dutky (recorder), Alex Palmer (Volunteer Maryland Coordinator), Bill Phelan (guest).

Call to order 7PM

Reviewed May 6 minutes, approved with corrections.

Tree Activity

Brian reported on tree removals. One tree removed at Crescent Rd/Forest Way because it was killed by a lightning strike. One tree on Crescent across the road from the Sunoco Station had advanced buttress rot. ACT had advised this tree be removed. Brian has requested Bartlett Tree to do another evaluation of the large willow oak at the Municipal Building. A lot of the large old Callery Pears suffered damage in recent storms. One large Callery Pear on Mandan Rd. was brushed by a large truck which snapped out about 1/3 of the tree canopy and damaged the main trunk. The broken tree landed on top of the truck doing some damage but no personal injury. Just prior to the 4th of July weekend crews went through Buddy Attick Park doing safety pruning of limbs and removing poison ivy near the paths. Corrections to the Tree Inventory are complete. Work has started on a large white oak in Buddy Attick Park to cable it and remove dead wood.

Update on Greenbelt “Summer Solstice Bio Blitz”

Alex reported on the June 21 Bio Blitz program at Schrom Hills. Charles helped assist the 5 naturalists as one of the 3 note-takers. Each naturalist walked areas in the park identifying organisms in their area (plants, insects, birds, etc.). The plan is to repeat the program twice a year, building a comprehensive list of identified organisms. The first list should be published in August. Alex presented a variety of ideas for enriching this program such as planting native shrubs to soften the intersection of turf areas and forest and increase the wildlife habitat. Alex's last day will be August 11. All ACT members commend Alex for his good work this year.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, August 12 at 5 PM at Public Works. We will take a field trip to look at city plantings.

Adjourn 9PM

Submitted by Ethel Dutky, recorder.