

Advisory Committee on Trees – April 16, 2013

Meeting called to order at 7:20 p.m.

Present: Charles Jackman (chair), Bob Trumbule, Ethel Dutky, Brian Townsend (staff liaison), Kristen Wharton (Coordinator for Volunteer Maryland)

The March 12, 2013 minutes were approved with minor corrections.

Emerald Ash Borer Alert

Bob Trumbule noted that the emerald ash borer beetle is now in the immediate region near Greenbelt. This means that all ash trees in Greenbelt are at risk from being damaged or killed by the insect. There are two huge white ash trees along Ridge Road that warrant protection from the Emerald ash borer. The cost to protect these ash trees is ~\$2400-2800. The soil near the tree is treated with a systemic insecticide that is taken up by the tree and prevents successful establishment of the emerald ash borer.

Tree Inventory for Greenbelt

Kristen Wharton reported on the upcoming tree inventory for Greenbelt. Brian Stupak (Maryland Department of Natural Resources) will help with the tree inventory of the parks and forested areas (338 acres including the remnant “greenbelt” forest, Buddy Attick and Schrom Hills parks, etc.) and two professionals (Brian Knox of ECO-GOATS and James Remuzzi of Sustainable Solutions) will be hired to inventory the street trees. A comprehensive master plan will be developed that shows all current trees and documents tree health. Also, a plan will be provided that will suggest replacement trees, if any existing trees are damaged or removed.

Earth Day and Arbor Day, April 20, 2013

Kristen Wharton and Kim Walsh will lead the Earth Day and Arbor Day events. There will be more trees planted at Springhill Lake Recreation Center. Trees selected to be planted include Silver Maple, Persimmon, and Paw Paw. The Food Forest to be planted was designed by Lincoln Smith (Forested). The Arbor Day plantings will take place at approximately 3:00 p.m. with the Tree Tour of Significant Greenbelt Trees at 3:30 p.m. PEPCO will be providing \$6,000 worth of bushes and trees at the celebration, which will be free to Greenbelt residents (one per household). These are being provided because of the recent large scale pruning and tree removal of Greenbelt trees by PEPCO contractors necessitated because of power reliability maintenance.

Forest Stewardship Program

Kristen Wharton reported that the Forest Stewardship program is going very well with approximately 15 participants. Both Brian Townsend and Michael Fox of Greenbelt Public Works are participants in this program. The Forest Stewardship program last met on April 6. The participants in this program will be helping to plant trees and bushes at the Earth and Arbor Day celebration on April 20.

White Pine near the Municipal Building

Charles Jackman presented a draft of an ACT Report concerning the dead eastern white pine near the Municipal Building. The ACT Report advised that this tree needed to be removed because of its proximity to a public building, city sidewalk, and street. It was suggested that photos of the tree be included in the Report so City Council would know the dire shape of the tree.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Submitted by Charles Jackman