

Advisory Committee on Trees – July 2, 2013

Present: Ethel Dutky (recorder), Charles Jackman (Chair), Brian Townsend (city liaison), Bob Trumbule (member), Kristen Wharton (Volunteer MD coordinator).

Meeting called to order at the New Deal Cafe at 7:15PM
Minutes for May 21 mtg. were corrected via e-mail, approved as corrected.

Declining Trees and Tree Removals – Brian Townsend

The crape myrtle proposed to replace the white pine (*Pinus strobus*) removed in front of the Municipal Building is the cultivar 'Muskogee', not 'Natchez'. Charles has written an ACT Report to the City Council in support of the use of the two large crape myrtles to replace the white pine (dead and removed) and the willow oak (in decline) in the Municipal Building landscape. Charles will correct the cultivar name and send the report forward.

The red mulberry (*Morus rubra*) in Buddy Attick Park is in trouble due to a split in one of the trunks. Brian sent an e-mail detailing the damage and the recommendations for measures to support the unstable limbs. Bartlett Tree Experts Inc. is putting together a proposal to do the work (supports, cables, etc.) at an estimated cost of \$3,200. ACT is in support of doing this work to save this very large (state record) native tree.

Forest Stewards Program – Kristen Wharton

The Forest Stewardship Plan is in hand from the Dept of Natural Resources. Kristen sent a digital copy of the plan to each ACT member. We examined some of the maps. Brian suggested that the Forest and Garden Plots in GHI be included. The existing plan excludes the Buddy Attick Lake, picnic area, ballfields and some other areas. The plan is very thorough. It includes suggestions for improvement of the trail system, removal of invasive species and correction of areas that are overstocked. Kristen will invite Brian Stupak to give a presentation on the plan. A maintenance schedule is included, with considerable detail. ACT examined the maintenance schedule and strongly supports it. GHI supports the plan as well. This is a part of the Chesapeake Bay Trust Grant.

The street tree inventory is progressing. Taylor Keen and Josh Nadler (Univ. MD) have offered to advise. They have the tree identification and GIS skills and experience doing a street tree inventory. Kristen organized a meeting with Planning, Public Works, and the Police Dept. today (July 2) to go over the requirements to do this project. The meeting went well, many details still need to be worked out.

Faculty from the University of Maryland (Professors Joe Sullivan, Marla McIntyre, Maele Neel) have offered to lead the program and conduct the inventory. Portions of the work will be done as part of student course work. They have already done a similar project for the town of University Park. Taylor Keen is a staff member in U MD Facilities Management. He is very interested in this project. He also works with the Baltimore-Washington Partners in Forest Stewardship. Some problems to solve: 1- Obtain GIS software. 2- Determine other hardware needed for the project. 3 – Develop framework on a fee for service consultant for the inventory. 4 – Compile the data collected.

ACT expressed sincere thanks to Kristen for the excellent work she has done on the Forest Stewards Project. We wish her well in her graduate work.

Next meeting: July 23, 2013 at 7PM to go over revision of the Sustainable Landscape Policy Document.

Adjourn at 9:15 PM
Ethel Dutky, recorder

