

## **Advisory Committee on Trees – July 23, 2013**

Present: Ethel Dutky (recorder), Charles Jackman (chair), Brian Townsend (City liaison), Bob Trumbule (member).

Meeting called to order at 7PM at the Public Works Building

July 2 meeting minutes were reviewed and approved with corrections.

### **ACT Reports sent to City Council.**

Charles wrote two ACT Reports: 1 – Crape Myrtle used to replace dead white pine at Municipal Building. 2 – Proposal to Repair/preserve the Red Mulberry at Buddy Attick Park. These two reports were reviewed and approved by all ACT members via e-mail. Charles submitted both Reports to City Council.

Brian reminded ACT that the Forest Stewardship Plan has not yet been accepted/approved by City Council (nor seen by other pertinent advisory boards). It should not be cited or referenced until it is approved. Continued discussion is welcome.

### **Discussion of ACT involvement in Tree Management**

We reviewed the history of ACT's creation and involvement with development of tree policy. Charles will send Brian a 2002 ACT Memo on replacement plan for Bradford Pear Street and Park trees. We also referred Brian to the ACT Report on invasive species management (Oct. 2007, revised Oct. 2012). Brian expressed concern about how to handle situations where an invasive species is encroaching onto City property from another adjacent property. One example is the *Ailanthus* (Tree of Heaven) invading the Forest Preserve at Northway Fields. Very large *Ailanthus* exist on the right of way along the Baltimore-Washington Parkway, and are the source of seeds contributing to the problem. The seed produces seedlings along the Forest Preserve edges and contaminates the compost/mulch piles used in City landscapes. Bob suggested that Public Works should set up a liaison with the State Highway Administration and the National Park Service to address the problem at this site. Similar liaisons may be needed to be established with the USDA Beltsville Agriculture Research Center.

### **Forest Stewardship Training – Brian Townsend**

Brian reported on a recent (Sat. July 20) training program conducted by Brian and Tim Zastrow (Bartlett Tree Experts) on the topic of detection of tree defects such as hollow and rotten trunks, girdling roots, decline and other serious tree problems which could lead to tree failure. The training included both classroom and “hands on” field experience. The program was well received by the Forest Steward students.

Ethel Dutky and Bob Trumbule will conduct Forest Steward training on pest and disease detection/diagnosis on Saturday, August 3, 2013. The training will be held in a classroom at the Community Center and in field trip format in the area near the Community Center.

### **Sustainable Land Care Policy Document**

ACT concerns about the document include the inflexibility of the language, and the length of the document (14 to 15 pages). We continued review of the document line by line and made extensive changes, condensing sections to eliminate duplication of information. ACT has worked on this document for several months. Initially ACT worked with Lesley Riddle, the original author and city Public works staff liaison to ACT, with the understanding that editing and revision was necessary. Since the resignation of Lesley Riddle, it has been the intent of ACT to produce a finished, working document that is clear and concise and takes into consideration effective and practical land care

methods, and worker and public health and safety. By 9:30 PM we had covered slightly more than ½ of the document. We agreed to meet again to work on this document. Ethel will incorporate our changes and send to all ACT members for review.

Adjourn at 9:30PM

Ethel Dutky

Next meeting Tuesday August 27 at Public Works