

Advisory Committee on Trees, March 12, 2013

Present: Charles Jackman (chair), Ethel Dutky (recorder), Bob Trumbule, Lesley Riddle (staff liaison), Kristen Wharton (guest)

Approval of minutes: January 22, 2013 minutes and February 12, 2013 minutes approved with corrections.

1 – Dangerous trees

The dying Eastern White Pine (*Pinus strobus*) at the municipal center is still standing, and due to buttress rot and fragile large dead branches, it presents an unacceptable hazard to people and property. Charles will prepare a report to city council on this dangerous tree and the need for prompt removal.

2 – Sustainable Landscape Policy Document

When ACT has completed work on this document, send it to Public Works as the “ACT Revision of the Sustainable Landscape Policy”.

3 – Forest Stewardship Program

The first two training sessions have been held. Lesley will continue to teach sessions she has prepared. Kristen Wharton has been accepted into a graduate program in Holland and will leave at the end of August. The Forest Stewardship Program will continue as described in the syllabus.

4 – Earth Day and Arbor Day, April 20, 2013

Public Works will have its annual Open House starting at 10AM.

Kristen Wharton and Kim Walsh will lead the 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 has a new design. This event will start at 2:15PM with two middle school students presenting their award winning work on soil monitoring. Earth Day activities will also be held in the Food Forest.

In the fall National Public Lands Day will be recognized with a tree planting event coordinated by CHEARS. Other activities being considered for this event are a stream clean up and a litter pick up.

5 – Pepco Tree Trimming

Lesley reported that most of the tree cutting is done. Pepco is providing funds for the city to plant trees in some cleared areas. Work continues on replacement of poles and re-routing lines. There has been a lot of outcry over the extensive clearing of some areas adjacent to Rte 193.

6 – Last meeting with Lesley Riddle as our staff liaison.

Lesley is leaving to accept the position of head of Public Works for the city of Hyattsville. We commend Lesley for her outstanding work during her years in Greenbelt. We have very much enjoyed working with Lesley, and especially admire her tireless efforts to protect Greenbelt's trees. Lesley's new e-mail is: Lriddle@Hyattsville.org.

Next meeting; April 16 at 7PM at the New Deal Cafe.

Adjourn at 8:30 PM

Ethel Dutky, recorder.