

## **Advisory Committee on Trees Meeting – May 22, 2012**

Present: Charles Jackman (chair), Bob Trumbule, Ethel Dutky, Lesley Riddle (city liaison)

The meeting was held at the New Deal Café and started at 7:15 p.m.

### **Food Forest near Springhill Lake Recreation Center**

Kim Walsh of the Chesapeake Education, Arts, and Research Society (CHEARS) discussed the plans for a Food Forest near the Springhill Lake Recreation Center. The Food Forest would consist of six fruiting trees along with several fruiting bushes and plants. It may also be possible to provide shiitake logs for growing mushrooms. The Food Forest area will be about a 40 ft x 56 ft sized space and will be fenced. Possible trees include paw paw, persimmon, and cherry. Possible bushes and plants include blueberry, blackberry, raspberry, and strawberry.

Signage would be placed to help teach about this natural food area. It is hoped that any food produced would be locally consumed at the nearby Franklin Park Apartments. A one hour class will be offered at the University of Maryland for freshmen to help in planting the trees.

The Food Forest project was discussed and ACT gave tentative approval for the plan. The Food Forest project needs to have final approval from the Greenbelt City Council prior to implementation.

### **City Liaison (Lesley Riddle) Report**

Lesley Riddle reported that a white oak between the Greenbelt Community Center and the Greenbelt Youth Center had to be removed. The white oak had been damaged by lightning.

Some discussion followed on the possibility of putting up lightning protection for some of the larger more prominent trees in Greenbelt. The cost of such protection is about \$1,000/tree. It was thought that budgeting \$10,000 for such lightning protection would be money well spent. This would protect about 10 trees. Large trees cost \$3,000 to \$5,000 per tree to remove. A willow oak on Ridge Road and a willow oak in the playground by the Greenbelt Community Center are two good candidates for lightning protection.

A large white oak across the street from the Sunoco station is in need of pruning.

Lesley has had to walk the entire route of the area where Pepco will be pruning and removing trees. She indicated that the removal of canopy for Greenbelt could be substantial and recommended that ACT members also see the impacted areas. ACT agreed to see the Pepco areas at the next meeting.

Lesley reported that the damaged woodland areas near Greenbrook Village and Greenbrook Estates are starting to come back. These areas were denuded by some local residents who cleared the underbrush during the past winter.

The Greenbelt City Council is planning on meeting with Public Works personnel on the use of calcium magnesium acetate (CMA) rather than rock salt for de-icing the Roosevelt Center part of Greenbelt.

### **Greenbelt's Best**

Bob Trumbule asked that the pamphlet highlighting Greenbelt's Best Trees be revised and published again. He proposed having a driving tour in October 2012 as part of the 75<sup>th</sup>

Anniversary celebration highlighting the founding of Greenbelt. He urged that ACT members look for significant (champion) trees in Greenbelt, which could be highlighted in this document.

**Bob Trumbule's Talk at the Symposium 'Sustaining Greenbelt's Legacy' on April 28, 2012 (one of Greenbelt's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Sponsored Events)**

Bob Trumbule presented an excellent talk entitled "Green Heritage: Greenbelt and a Love for Trees" at this Symposium. There was much interest in the talk and Bob fielded questions on trees afterwards.

The March 13, 2012 ACT Minutes were approved with minor changes.

The meeting was adjourned at about 9:00 p.m.

The next ACT meeting will be at 5:00 p.m. on June 4 at the Public Works Building.

Respectfully submitted by Charles Jackman.