

Advisory Committee for Trees – Minutes for May 4, 2010

Present were ACT members Charles Jackman, Lesley Riddle, Bob Trumbule, Ethel Dutky and guest Bill Phelan.

ACT met at the Public Works building at 6:30 PM and went on a field trip to view a variety of sites in Greenbelt where there are problems or work in progress.

First stop was at the area in Greenbelt West (Empirian Village) where the street tree canopy is being thinned, old damaged trees removed and new planting installed to improve light penetration to the sidewalk and for improved appearance. Many of the old pin oaks were in very sad condition.

Next stop was at the Greenbelt Cemetery. We discussed plants to replace the Leyland Cypress screen which had been damaged by the snow. Plants mentioned as possibilities included various hollies, and Magnolias (Bill Phelan had some specific cultivar suggestions on the Magnolias).

Next stop was Schrom Hills Park. A lot of snow damage was noted in the wooded areas where bent trees were impinging on playing fields or paths. These will be pruned up or removed. It was nice to see how well used the park is with teams using the playing fields and many families strolling in the park.

Throughout the tour we saw damage to trees and shrubs from the snow. In addition, all of the Sycamore trees were showing very severe leaf and shoot blight symptoms caused by the disease called "Sycamore Anthracnose". It is an indigenous disease which will not kill or seriously harm the trees. Once the weather warms up the trees will continue to produce leaf and shoot growth and by June will have recovered completely. No treatment is necessary or advised.

We drove around other areas in Greenbelt looking at recently planted trees. As it became dark, we adjourned at about 8PM.