
CITY OF HYATTSVILLE SHADE TREE BOARD

MINUTES | JULY 16, 2025

Present: Zachary Dorner, Gloria Felix-Thompson, Kathryn Kutzner, Randy Fletcher, John Healy, Dawn Bohls, Taylor Johnson

Absent: Deb Taylor, Kyla Gallagher

Staff: Dawn Taft

Visitor(s): Councilmember Greg Barnes, Maximiliano Vasquez

Meeting called to order at 7:43 pm

1) Approval of the previous May and June 2025 minutes

May and June minutes approved.

2) Brief report on approved permits, denials, illegal removals - Dawn Taft

No illegal removals. 10 approved permits (TP 25-025 to 030). Also approved TP 25-032 to 034 and 036.

One permit denial (TP 25-031).

Outstanding permits include TP 25-035 and 037.

No permits for trees dropping limbs that needed to be removed due to recent storms. Some trees needed to be pruned. Only one city tree removed.

3) Old Business

a. Comms: social media post review

John shared that the social media post is scheduled to go out next week. It will be our first pre-approved post.

Proposed having a shared drive that we can include a repository of tree photos that can be used for social media posts.

Dawn Taft shared with Councilmember Barnes that this committee used to only work on tree removal permits and that the Shade Tree Board as it is now is more committed to educating and connecting with the community about tree care, preservation, and conservation.

b. Results of outreach to City Council members

Councilmember Barnes and Councilmember Strab indicated interest in becoming liaisons to the Shade Tree Board.

Councilmember Lee responded positively to the committee's email outreach. Randy spoke with Councilmember Gobi about the Shade Tree Board and invited her to attend a meeting.

c. City tree database

Dawn Taft presented the Hyattsville tree database link (<https://hyattsvillemd.treekeepersoftware.com/index.cfm>). The database includes public trees only. Users can search for trees based on address.

Casey Trees and Chesapeake Climate Action Network are continuing with the City of Hyattsville's efforts on invasive vine removal on public and private properties. They will focus on public properties first.

4,000 trees with invasives have been originally identified in Hyattsville and about 800 trees had their invasive vines removed during the last grant, leaving 3,200 trees with invasive vines.

4) New Business

Councilmember Barnes (Ward 1) introduced himself and shared about his interest in serving as a Shade Tree Board liaison. He intends to do it as a joint effort with Councilmember Strab. He is excited to be part of the committee's efforts.

Hyattsville received funding to develop a climate action plan. Community surveys are forthcoming and there may be opportunities for members to provide input.

5) Public Comment

None.

Kyla Gallagher was nominated to be the Secretary for the next meeting as Kathryn is unable to attend. Randy agreed to be backup.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:27 pm.

Next meeting will be August 6, 2025.