
CITY OF HYATTSVILLE SHADE TREE BOARD

MINUTES | DECEMBER 6, 2023

PRESENT: Taylor Johnson, Gloria Felix-Thompson, Randy Fletcher,
Zack Dorner, Kathryn Kutzner, Deborah Taylor

ABSENT:

STAFF: Dawn Taft

VISITOR(s):

The meeting was called to order at 7:37 pm.

There was no November Shade Tree Board Meeting

We welcome Deborah Taylor to the Shade Tree Board!

1) Approval of the Minutes

Randy moved to approve the October minutes. Zack seconded the motion, and the October minutes were approved unanimously.

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

Over the past two months, there were six approved permits and one not applicable. The tree not applicable was 72" in circumference.

3) Update on the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funded tree canopy restoration effort (Dawn Taft)

750 trees will be planted through the ARPA fund. Dawn has identified 500 possible locations in the city for planting. 121 trees have been planted, 275 will be planted between February and March (on private and public land), and another 100 in April and May. To date, there have been 61 consultations with folks from the *Right Tree, Right Place*, and consultations will continue throughout the winter. Dawn thinks they will be able to plant all 750 trees.

If we have any connections to organizations that have space for tree plantings, let Dawn know. The trees will be planted for free.

Deborah asked if there is a flyer to promote this information, and Dawn pointed out that all information is on the city website and printed in the Hyattsville Reporter/Green Sheet.

You Point, We Plant! A link is below for Hyattsville property owners interested in having a

FREE native tree planted on their property! This includes homeowners, businesses, apartment complexes, churches, etc.

<https://www.hyattsville.org/formcenter/public-works-12/city-of-hyattsville-free-tree-application-147>

Taylor mentioned that for an apartment complex, trees present a maintenance problem, and that's all management will see. We need to point out to them the positive aspects of planting trees in our community.

4) Revision of permit application to correspond with revisions to Chapter 112

The Board likes the updates that Zack proposed. Dawn will cut and paste the new copy into the permit on the second page (112-4.1 and 112-4.2) once content is approved.

Change “Tree species and plan for replacement” to “replacement species and planting location.”

Gloria questioned if the \$200 fee is too low? Dawn said that she is able to purchase new trees and have them planted for \$200. Deborah asked if there is an option for low-income residents and Taylor mentioned the hardship clause, which is in the ordinance. Healthy Trees Hyattsville has developed a program for low-income residents, but it's currently in legal.

5) New Business

Dawn spoke about CCAN...assessing the city trees for invasives and got 1,000 of them analyzed but have only rescued 300 of them. March 2024 is the end of this program. There was hope for 25 tree stewards, and currently there are 12. Kathryn offered to help with communication between the stewards. There have been eight steward trainings and there will be two more—December 16, 2023 and January 13, 2024. The purpose of the training is to empower residents to do triage on trees that need to be freed of invasives. Stewards are given the basic tools to train others on invasive species and the removal of them. If you are a tree steward, you get the full list of all trees in the city that need to be helped. This program is based on one from Takoma Park.

The exciting news is that the similar programs are happening in other counties.

Calendar of meetings for 2024—The Board decided to move the July meeting from July 3rd to July 10th.

Upcoming elections of officers—Elections will occur at the January meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 pm

The next meeting will be held on **WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3RD, AT 7:30 PM.**