

City of Hyattsville Tree Board Meeting Minutes

Friday 3 December 2021

Zoom Meeting

Present: Millard Smith, Gloria Felix-Thompson, Randy Fletcher, Keondra Freemyn, Taylor Johnson, Zack Dorner

Absent: none

Staff: Dawn Taft

Visitor: Danny Schaible

The meeting was called to order at 1:38 pm.

The minutes from November meeting were approved with one typo correction.

The following permit actions were discussed:

11 approved permits, 2 non-applicable, 2 illegal removals, 2 outstanding, 1 denied.

Illegal Removal IL21-005 – 72” tree, resident had asked arborist for removal, she said it could be pruned. **Two days before the tree was to be pruned it was intentionally girdled** and will now have to be removed. The motion to assign the maximum fine of \$1,000 was unanimously approved.

IL21-004 – a large sweetgum cut down that looks as though it was healthy and 64” estimated girth. Discovered by code compliance. The motion to assign the maximum fine was unanimously approved.

Proposed revisions of chapter 112-2(e): one year may not be enough time to determine death of a tree from contractor’s actions, such as root compaction. However, current ordinance specifies a one year time frame. An example was given of a tree whose removal was denied, but the ordinance also does not require protection of a tree according to ANSI standards. Had the ordinance required that, compliance could have stopped the developer from doing things that caused the death of the tree three years after denial of removal. Council member Schaible suggested if we had a requirement for protection, we could then cite and fine someone who does not do that and the citation would mention there may be further action taken if the tree continues to decline. Ms. Taft will check with other area communities to see what they have in their ordinances.

New Business: Randy suggested we put in the Hyattsville reporter every month a reminder to get a permit. Taylor suggested reporting each month the actions of last month, for example this month there were 11 permits approved and 2 illegal removals fined.

Healthy Trees Hyattsville – **primary focus on hazard maintenance assistance for low-income residents**, education of proper tree care, and stormwater management. As it is rolled out, there will be reminders of the need for permits.

Environment Committee has pushed to the side a program for removal of English Ivy to save trees because they don't have the volunteer pool to keep up. The program runs through Hyattsville Aging in Place and **they will be reaching out for volunteers in months to come.**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:36

The next meeting will be 7 January 2022