
CITY OF HYATTSVILLE SHADE TREE BOARD

MINUTES | NOVEMBER 2, 2022

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

ABSENT:

STAFF: Dawn Taft

VISITOR(s): Ben Simasek (Ward 3 Council member and Tree Board Liaison), Joseph Beck
attended

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm.

- 1) The minutes from the October 2022 meeting were approved
- 2) Brief report on approved permits, denials, and illegal removals (Dawn Taft)

There were five approved permits and one outstanding permit (a 128" ash) that will most likely be approved. The root system is not in good shape, and it is very near to the house. There is hope that the tree can be pruned to preserve it for a longer period before it will have to be fully removed.

This year, there have been 62 permit requests, 55 have been removed, 4 denied, 2 not applicable (a cedar that is growing into a shed, and a walnut that has no space), and there is 1 outstanding request.

There are a total of 40 hazard trees removed. Code allows 30 days to mitigate the situation, but Dawn tries to work with the property owner so that it's not a hardship on them. Most hazard reports come in from residents who report them. Dawn often find other hazards when inspecting a reported hazard.

There have been nine illegal removals this year. As information is put out, more people will be aware of the process required to remove trees, hopefully resulting in fewer illegal removals.

There have been 15 trees planted plus shrubs, and invasives removed on 38th avenue.

Zack asked about the court upholding fines and wondered if Dawn had been to court this month. She had not but did talk to Code to let them know she wanted to be informed about

new cases.

Gloria made a statement. When the first Werrlein houses went up at WSSC, they removed 7 trees. They paid a fee and planted new trees, but Gloria only noticed 4, and most are understory trees. How many trees will they plant on the larger parcel? Dawn... the 4 trees are planted under powerlines on 41st. Question: can we challenge their planting procedures. They are planting under powerlines and the replacement trees should be planted in another place. Would it be better to take them down now and have the proper sized trees planted? Can Dawn contact Werrlein directly? Can we write into city or state law instructions for planting? We may have to refer to city attorney.

Ben Simasek responds: Developers do not necessarily plant replacement trees within the city. “They can plant anywhere in PG County.” Ben would support planting on same property or within the city, following arborist recommendation for placement and tree species. No trees that are large should be replaced under power lines. Trees planted in the city must align with right tree, right place!

We should consider writing letters to county council about what we can do to encourage developers to plant replacement trees properly.

3) Proposed Revisions to Chapter 112-4.2b

We rehashed what we have discussed in past meetings. If someone takes down a canopy tree, they should replace with a canopy tree. There is a list of recommended trees by the Department of Natural Resources: see below.

<https://dnr.maryland.gov/forests/Pages/MarylandersPlantTrees/Recommended-Tree-List.aspx>

Zack and Ben thought it is a good idea to stick to the language “large and small” instead of under or overstory.

We will try to finalize Chapter at the next meeting. Let’s get it done.

We should match the language in the ordinance. If you remove a large tree, you must replace it with a large tree. New language to consider: *If your tree is classified as a large or an overstory tree, it must be replaced with a large or overstory trees species.*

We want the applicant to decide upfront, what type of tree they are going to replace a removed tree with.

New Business— Dawn is working on a storm water grant for invasive vines on private property. CCAN (Chesapeake Climate Action Network) to do an assessment of city and tackle getting ivy removed. They were able to clean off 4,000 of 5000 trees that were identified in a similar program last year in Takoma Park.

A willow oak needs to be trimmed in front of Smitty's house. Dawn will follow up with him.

Dawn has a new coordinator to help her with her work load.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:34 pm

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