
CITY OF HYATTSVILLE SHADE TREE BOARD

MINUTES | SEPTEMBER 7, 2022

PRESENT: Gloria Felix-Thompson, Randy Fletcher, Zack Dörner, Keondra Freemyn

ABSENT: Taylor Johnson, Millard Smith

STAFF: Dawn Taft

VISITOR(s): Ben Simasek (Ward 3 Council member and Tree Board Liaison), Danny Schaible (Ward 2 Council member and Tree Board Liaison), Kathryn Kutzner

The meeting was called to order at 7:36 pm.

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

There were 8 approved permits for removal, and 4 illegal removals. No outstanding permits.

IL 22-006 — 95" Willow Oak. Randy motioned to fine the property owner, Keondra seconded, and the board unanimously passed the motion to fine the property owner \$1,000.

IL 22-007—86" Pear tree. Randy motioned to fine the property owner, Keondra seconded, and the board unanimously passed the motion to fine the property owner \$850.
A Magnolia tree on this property was also removed but was under size requirement for a permit but.

IL 22-008—60" Oak tree. Keondra motioned to fine the property owner, Zack seconded, and the board unanimously passed the motion to fine the property owner \$800.

IL22-009—113" Oak tree. Dawn was contacted by the owner who removed one other Oak tree just under 50 inches and was in debate with the neighbor to remove a 3rd huge Oak. *We will hold discussion on this until the October meeting so that more information can be gathered.*

- 3) Brief Subcommittee Report on “Options Matrix” being developed
The discussion continued about overstory/understory trees for replacement. If a tree is a canopy tree, it should be replaced with a canopy tree. Zack provided an option for the updated permit, to include information about what type of tree the applicant will plant to replace the tree they are removing. Zack questioned if we should remove the matrix if it’s

adding confusion. Randy mentioned that the point was to make it easier for people to understand that if they are removing a tree, they must either replant or pay a fine. They should know this up front. Gloria mentioned that if an overstory tree is being taken, it should be replaced by an overstory unless the lot doesn't permit the tree to reach full size. If the lot doesn't permit it then the applicant can pay \$200 for replacement elsewhere. We thought that Taylor and Smitty should voice their opinions on this topic, so we decided to table discussion until the October meeting. Below is a screen shot of the matrix Zack submitted.

Updated 9/6/22

For each tree removed	Option 1	Option 2
Up to 35" circumference	Replace with small (understory) or large (overstory) tree	Pay \$200 to Healthy Trees Hyattsville
Over 35" circumference	Replace with large (overstory) tree	Pay \$200 to Healthy Trees Hyattsville

**For purposes of replacement, an understory tree is understood to reach up to 35' in height, while an overstory tree is generally greater than 35' in height. A replacement tree should be one chosen from the "small" or "large" categories on the [recommended native tree list](#) provided by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources so that it can achieve the size in maturity of the tree removed.

4) **New Business—**

Dawn is working with *Casey Trees* for planting in low income areas on private property. She is in the process of targeting potential new planting space.

Healthy Trees Hyattsville was accepted by council and more information will be available in spring 2203. The language for providing aid/assistance to residents who are unable to pay for tree removal/replanting is with the legal team for review.

Kathryn Kutzner (Katie) asked if there were any updates with Hyattsville Aging in Place (HAP) and ivy removal. Dawn didn't have info on hand but will bring results to the next meeting. Dawn explained the difference between HAP and the Hyattsville Environmental Committee. HAP tidies up yards and removes invasive vines. The environmental committee tries to save trees. Kathryn is interested in volunteering for Ivy Removal.

Volunteers are needed. Leaders are also needed. Potential leaders participate in a 2-hour training class, which is where they learn the rules and regulations of being on someone's private property. Once they are trained, they can lead their own group. English ivy kills trees and also hides anomalies such as holes and other trunk damage.

We would like to add *Hyattsville ARPA Tree Canopy Restoration Budget Request* to the October Agenda. The budget deadline for CM's was August 31. Danny Schaible submitted the budget request, which had been previously discussed with the Shade Tree Board. The budget request that Danny sent is attached in the email. Danny will be able to answer any of our questions at the October meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 pm

The next meeting will be held on **WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5, AT 7:30 PM.**