
CITY OF HYATTSVILLE SHADE TREE BOARD

MINUTES | SEPTEMBER 6, 2023

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

ABSENT: Kathryn Kutzner

STAFF: Dawn Taft

VISITOR(s):

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

- 1) Gloria moved to approve both June and July meeting minutes and they were approved.
- 2) Brief report on approved permits, denials, and illegal removals (Dawn Taft)

From July there were four approved permits, one declined, and one not applicable. Four more permits were recently approved for a total of eight. There was one illegal removal, a 60-inch black walnut. \$800 fine would be appropriate. One other illegal removal was caught in process, but the tree was in decline and the owner filled out the permit request which Dawn approved.

- 3) Proposed revisions to Chapter 112
June Minutes.....Lesley said the hardship issue we've discussed will not be under the ordinance but will be included under Healthy Trees Hyattsville.

112-3A. make a comment for lawyer to review service without pay. Currently Hyattsville is paying. There are nine members, 8 shall be appointed by mayor. All members shall serve

Dawn will send Chapter 112 without all the track changes.

Dawn's title is City Arborist.

Tree protection zone: Lesley said the information should be in Chapter 112 and put it possibly in a couple sections. How do we say this....if your permit is denied, than there needs to be language that states you need to abide by the ansi tree protection laws/critical root language. It should be also included in the area that mentions the health of trees.

Shouldn't the root zone always be protected, whether you have an approve permit or not? If doing construction, you have to abide by this. How does one prove this? Photos? Knowing that a certain tree was being damaged by construction, the company took money off the sale price of the house to account for the new owner having the take the tree down eventually because of the damage that was caused to it.

112-6A-(1)

Add a new section (c) Failure to adequately protect the critical root zone per guidelines of ANSI a300 at all times especially during any construction.

Also add the language to: 112-4

Add this to beginning of paragraph.....No person shall damage the critical root zone,

Dawn put a comment to legal in comments...per comment 116

Above this in section D. remove the Shall Shall.....

4) New Business

There are over 300 requests for trees on private property at Casey trees. Spread the word about planting. Invasive vine removal...spread the word about saving the trees by applying online to get help removing vines. There are 10 community tree stewards that have the tools to successfully help their neighbors. PG county has chosen Driskell park for the Green Summit this year. Vendors are being selected and the event is on October 21st. There is a self-guided tree tour on the city website and the Tree Board could explore permanent signage....

The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 pm

The next meeting will be held on **WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4, AT 7:30 PM.**