
CITY OF HYATTSVILLE SHADE TREE BOARD

MINUTES | JUNE 1, 2022

PRESENT: Randy Fletcher, Zack Dorner, Millard Smith, Taylor Johnson,

ABSENT: Keondra Freemyn
Gloria Felix-Thompson

STAFF: Dawn Taft

VISITOR(s): Ben Simasek (Ward 3 Council member and Tree Board Liaison)

The meeting was called to order at 7:33 pm.

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

One permit outstanding from May will be denied—a Sycamore
3 permits were approved
1 outstanding permit

Many white oaks are in decline and permit request will most likely be forthcoming. Swamp Oaks are being used to replaced white oaks even though white oaks are the Maryland state tree. White oaks in forests seem to be doing OK. It's in the urban setting that they are not thriving.

Dawn briefly discussed the Phenology study—how trees and plants develop, leaf out, drop leaves, etc, and the tree database that is a public source of all public trees in Hyattsville and is available to us and will hopefully will be available to residents in the future. Dawn will send a link to the Tree Board. We discussed fast growing trees and how their branches are not as strong as slower growing trees and tend to snap off in storms. And we talked about placing “buck” protection by end of August on city trees.

- 3) Proposed revisions to Chapter 112 Urban Forest—
112-4.A Approved change.
112-4.D Approved change.
112-4.E We agreed to this language: “Reasonable conditions may include protection of the critical root zone (CRZ), such as topping a dying tree or other such provisions.” Dawn

thought it would be a good idea to make all the changes to the Urban Forest Draft Revisions, and then review again once the changes have been incorporated.

As far as replacing trees goes, we discussed what flexibility a homeowner has for replacing trees that they remove. Taylor suggested that they need to replace trees with like trees. Due to climate change, we should try to determine what an appropriate native tree will be for our area. We discussed what options there could be to replace shade/canopy trees on private and public land. We thought that if the homeowner couldn't plant a large shade tree on their property, an option could be that the resident would donate a tree to plant elsewhere in the city. We discussed including detailed language about tree replacement on the permit for tree removal. Mount Rainier has a good example of replacement options. (See below)

For each tree removed of:	OPTION 1	OPTION 2	OPTION 3
18" DBH (56.55" circ.) to < 28" DBH (87.96" circ.)	2 replacement trees on applicant's property	1 replacement tree on applicant's property + \$100 to tree replacement fund	\$200 to tree replacement fund
28" DBH (87.96" circ.) to < 38" DBH (119.38 circ.)	2 replacement trees on applicant's property	1 replacement tree on applicant's property + \$150 to tree replacement fund	\$300 to tree replacement fund
38" DBH (119.38" circ.) or more	2 replacement trees on applicant's property	1 replacement tree on applicant's property + \$200 to tree replacement fund	\$400 to tree replacement fund

- 4) New Business— We talked about the general cost to plant a tree, which is about \$300. The cost can be reduced to about \$150 by using rebates. We discussed reviewing the Mount Rainier replacement PDF and discussing it at the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:18 pm

The next meeting will be held on **WEDNESDAY, JULY 6, AT 7:30 PM.**