
CITY OF HYATTSVILLE SHADE TREE BOARD

MINUTES | OCTOBER 8, 2025

Present: Zachary Dorner, Kathryn Kutzner, Randy Fletcher, John Healy, Dawn Bohls, Kyla Gallagher, Deb Taylor, Taylor Johnson, Gloria Felix-Thompson

Absent:

Staff: Dawn Taft

Visitor(s): Councilmember Greg Barnes

Meeting called to order at 7:35 pm

1) Approval of the previous September 2025 minutes
September 2025 minutes approved.

2) Brief report on approved permits, denials, illegal removals - Dawn Taft
Approvals:

- Eight total
 - TP25-053 approved
 - TP25-055 through TP25-061 all approved

Permits outstanding:

- TP25-044, 045, 052, and 062-064

Denial:

- TP25-054

64 permits in the year to date, about the same as last year.

Based on previous years, extreme weather will continue to result in increased permit applications.

A previous illegal removal resulted in the \$1,000 maximum fine after the case was taken to court.

3) Old Business
a. Comms updates

John Healy: The previous communications staff contact from the City has left her position. He is going to send Cindy Zork an email regarding future City communications/social media posts from the Tree Board.

Per Dawn, the Tree Board May be able to add additional Board info to the soon-to-be published semiannual tree update to the City.

b. Tree ordinance updates

Councilmember Barnes will connect with Councilmember Strab for any updates.

c. Prince George's County Green Festival planning

Will be held on Saturday, October 11th at Driskell Park. The Tree Board will have a table, and members have signed up to fill shifts. Will offer rain gauges, stickers, leaves, and trees for giveaways.

4) New Business

a. Ideas for fall activities/ invasive vine removals

Ongoing invasive vine removal activities with the City, the Chesapeake Climate Action Network, and Casey Trees. This project will run into 2027.

The next removal is on October 18th at Heurich Park. The objective is to remove invasive vines on private property and train people how to properly remove them. A November event will be at the Duck Pond.

Other potential fall activities include sharing flyers on how to properly mulch trees. Dawn Bohls can share/print these flyers from Casey Trees for Tree Board members. She also has flyers on English Ivy. Dawn shared that flyers are not allowed to be put in residents' mailboxes.

Other ideas include tree planting and education on watering trees. Dawn Bohls encouraged members to check out the City of Hyattsville's website for useful resources on tree care and maintenance.

5) Public Comment

None.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:27 pm.

Next meeting will be November 5, 2025.