

City of Hyattsville Tree Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday 4 March 2026

Zoom Meeting

Present: Gloria Felix-Thompson, Randy Fletcher, Taylor Johnson, Zack Dorner, John Healy, Dawn Bohls, Deborah Taylor

Absent: Kyla Gallagher, Kathryn Kutzner

Staff: Dawn Taft

Council Member: Greg Barnes, Emily Strab

Visitor: none

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 pm.

The minutes from the February 2026 meeting were approved with correction of spelling for Zack Dorner's name.

The following outstanding permits were discussed: TP26-002 is outstanding. There was an illegal removal IL-26-001. The tree was dead or in decline. Dawn has not been able to determine the size, though the cut pieces visible on the alley show that it was a sizable tree. According to ordinance, this is a case when the fine could be up to \$1,000 when we cannot determine the size. Motion passed to assess the maximum fine.

Heritage Tree plaque program – Councilmember Barnes presented it to council and it will be presented again. Already moved onto the budget and should be approved when the city's final budget is approved. The fiscal year begins in July, so funds should be available sometime this summer.

Ordinance updates: no updates

Tree report card checklist – Randy created a great looking door hanger. Members were asked to see if there was anything missing to be included. The suggestion was made at our last meeting to change the email from that of the City Arborist to the treeboard email if folks have any questions. John suggested we create a shared spreadsheet for folks to record what house and the notes they left for the owners. This way we will collect some data that can help us know what trends we are noticing in tree needs for the city. Dawn Taft wanted to make sure there is a

reminder that dead, and ill trees also need permits. Some vigorous discussion ensued with minor edits suggested. The committee approved it and the next step is to run it by DPW for approval before we print it.

PG County Real Estate doc – no update

Tree Pruning – citizen's letter regarding pruning to trees on her property. John asked do we always know why they are being pruned? Ms. Taft said there is a report of all the tree work done by the city and it is available online. There are more than 1,000 trees every year that are managed by the contractor who has a long record with the city of competent work. Dawn Taft is developing a database that keeps track of work that is done so that she can see certain trees have been pruned three years in a row and then investigate why. Perhaps we need to do a better job of educating people on tree needs and managing their decline.

New Business: 2026 Shade Tree Board strategic plan – we will postpone to next meeting.

Emily Strab brought up that council is working to streamline committees. One proposal was to combine environmental and shade tree committees because of the stretch on council members to liase on committees and the fact that there are several committees with many vacant seats.

Climate Action Plan – the next meeting is coming up, 2nd work session is 6 April. The report of results from the last meeting is out for folks to read.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35

The next meeting will be 1 April