

Advisory Committee on Trees – April 18, 2017

Called to order 7:00PM

Present: Charles Jackman (chair), Ethel Dutky (recorder), Brian Townsend (staff liaison), Bob Trumbule (member), Erin Josephitis (Environmental Coordinator).

March 28, 2017 minutes reviewed and approved with corrections.

Old Business:

1) Tree Master Plan Meeting April 12.

Rachel Comte gave an excellent presentation of base line data, goals and methods to achieve goals. Charles and Ethel attended, as did a member of the GHI Woodlands Committee. Brian Townsend and Richard Fink were there to participate in the discussion. No other members of Advisory Boards attended.

On the topic of the Master Plan's tree canopy goal we had a vigorous discussion of the merits of raising the goal from 62% (canopy cover in 2007) to 75%, or to simply set a goal of increasing or maintaining the level. One major concern expressed was the large areas of impermeable surface, and ways to add tree canopy to these areas. Another site where large forest trees could be used is along highway medians and clover leaf intersections. Regarding the question of how the City Tree Ordinance should be strengthened, ACT supports positive recommendations for specific trees. ACT is not in favor of compiling lists of prohibited tree species.

2) Should ACT increase the number of citizens on the Committee?

No citizens came to the meeting to address this issue. Charles read from the Resolution 908 which established the Advisory Committee on Trees: "The Committee shall consist of 3 members, at least one of whom has professional knowledge and/or educational background in horticulture." Advantages to a small committee include efficiency in reaching consensus. Interested citizens are welcome to attend ACT meetings. In addition, ACT welcomes the input from our city Volunteer Coordinator and the City Environmental Coordinator who are both essential for the success of events.

ACT concluded that we would prefer to maintain a small committee composed of an odd number of members. We would prefer that more than half of whom hold educational and/or work experience in horticulture or closely related fields. We are satisfied with the way the Committee works with 3 members.

New Business

1) Tree Tour scheduled for Saturday, May 20.

ACT is willing to do a Significant Trees Tour on Saturday, May 20 as part of the Public Works Open House. Brian has arranged for us to use the small bus. We will meet and board the bus at 1 PM at the Public Works building. We could include and feature some old sites where previous Arbor Day plantings have established.

2) Planting Plan for PEPCO tree removal sites.

Brian is preparing a detailed planting plan for sites where trees were removed by PEPCO. The goal is full re-planting.

3) May 6 tree planting event.

There will be a tree planting event at the intersection of Cherrywood Lane and Breezewood Drive. PEPCO will also be planting. The event will start at 10AM and run until 2PM.

Adjourn 9:25 PM

Next Meeting May 23, 2017 at 7PM at the Public Works Building.

Submitted by Ethel Dutky