

## **Advisory Committee on Trees – August 14, 2017**

Call to order 7PM

Present: Brian Townsend (staff liaison), Ethel Dutky (member and recorder), Charles Jackman (Chair), Bob Trumbule (member).

Review and accept July 18 minutes with corrections.

Old Business

1 – Urban Forest Master Plan.

Brian showed ACT the proposed Public Works budget. The numbers did not match those in the Urban Forest Master Plan document. Examples include Table 5 (page 18) where the table says the number of trees treated for insect or disease problems as 2, but the correct number is 6. Another number that is incorrect in the document is the number of trees removed. Many comparisons made are not valid and are confusing. Brian will give Davey Tree the corrections to be made to the document. ACT and Public Works need to do a more thorough review of this document. ACT would like to meet the Davey representative to go over our concerns and the need for corrections. In particular Tables 5 and 6 provide the data for specific work to be done and the cost for doing it. ACT considers it very important to correct these tables. Brian will explore the possibility of having a conference call with Davey Tree representatives at our next ACT meeting.

2 – Sustainable Land Care Policy

A work session was held on August 2 to discuss the Sustainable Land Care Policy. Mayor Jordan, J Davis, Ed Putens, Konrad Herling and Rodney Roberts represented the City Council. The head of Public Works and several staff led the meeting and were tasked with making minor adjustments to the Policy document. Representatives from four Advisory committees were present: Green ACES, PRAB, ACT and the Forest Preserve. All members of ACT were present and participated. The major concern presented by Green ACES was that they want Organic Land Care to be the primary and first choice for the care of all City street trees and parks. Green ACES provided a document outlining methods approved as organic, the Northeast Organic Land Care Program. ACT strongly supports use of traditional IPM (Integrated Pest Management) as the primary basis for decisions on pest management (insects, mites, diseases and weeds) and fertility management.

ACT was very disappointed with the News Review coverage of this work session as presented in an article in the August 10, 2017 issue (Vol 80 #38). The article was very one-sided in favor of the organic option. It did not report views expressed by the majority of the participants. There was no mention of comments ACT or the Forest Preserve Advisory Board presented. ACT intends to participate in further discussion of this important document which should function as a guide for landscape work performed by Public Works. ACT is very concerned that the organic methods proposed are not the most effective, safe, or cost effective methods available. One example is the hand removal of poison ivy, a method which exposes workers to skin irritation, and stimulates re-growth of the plant requiring much disturbance of the site and multiple treatments as compared to one or at most two targeted applications of a systemic herbicide.

We were surprised when it was announced that Erin Josephitis (Environmental Coordinator) was leaving at the end of the week. We will miss the outstanding work she has done.

New Business

1 – News Review Article on Land Care Policy work session.

We debated the most effective response to the highly biased article on the Sustainable Land

Care Policy. We did not formulate a specific plan of action.

2 – Public Lands Day.

Events will be held at Springhill Lake Elementary School from 10 AM until 2PM. Brian will send us more details of how ACT can help with this event.

Adjourn 9:45 PM.

Next Meeting (Tuesday, Sept 26 at 6:30 PM.) at Public Works. Note, next meeting changed to October 3, at 6:30 PM. ACT members will independently visit the damaged trees along Mathew Street to inspect the damage done by fumes from paving work.

Submitted by Ethel Dutky