

## Advisory Committee on Trees - October 3, 2017

Call to order 6:30 PM

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

Reviewed minutes from August 14, 2017. Approved with some corrections.

Old Business:

1 - Letter to the editor in Greenbelt News Review, Thursday, August 24

There was a letter to the editor which commented on the News Review coverage of the work session on the Sustainable Land Care Plan. It gave a more complete coverage of the points discussed and the value of traditional Integrated Pest Management methods and tools for use in a “real world” landscape and street tree maintenance program. The writer was present at the work session and participated.

2 – Conference call with Davey Tree regarding the Urban Forest Master Plan for Greenbelt.

We met with the Davey Tree authors of the Urban Forest Master Plan document via a conference call, from 7PM to 8:20 PM. We had a thorough discussion of errors and confusing aspects of the report. They will send ACT the revised document within a month for review. There will be two documents, a long form and a short version.

3 – Damaged trees on Mathew Street in East Greenbelt.

We each visited the damaged trees prior to the meeting. Charles brought pictures of the damage. In July the street was being paved with asphalt. Fumes from the asphalt and exhaust from trucks left idling close to the trees killed sections of many trees on both sides of the street. Most affected trees were little leaf lindens. We agreed that several trees had so much damage they should be removed. Most trees had areas of scorched (dry, brown) foliage, but might send out healthy new growth in the spring. We suggested that Public Works wait to see how much recovery took place, and in late spring prune out obviously dead portions.

We discussed in some detail possible replacement tree species which would be likely to withstand the poor soil in this area. Some trees that should be considered include the Shantung Maple (*Acer truncatum*) planted in alternation with 'Frontier' Elm (a cross of *U. carpinifolia* with *U. parvifolia*). These trees provide good form, durability and tolerance of stress and bright fall color.

New Business

1 – Lakecrest Drive replacement for Callery Pears in decline.

The new Urban Forest Master Plan does not provide specific guidance on replacement trees. It simply suggests improving sustainability and diversity. This task of choosing specific tree cultivars is designated to ACT. In the case of Lakecrest Drive, the area is mostly free of overhead utility lines, so it provides an opportunity to use some larger trees. ACT agrees that the old Callery pears (cultivars 'Bradford', 'Aristocrat' and others) are in poor condition and should all be removed. We suggest the use of the Persian Ironwood (*Parrotia persica*) and the Trident Maple (*Acer buergerianum*), both moderate size trees (height to 40 feet) with outstanding fall color. Also consider male cultivars of the Ginkgo (to avoid the smelly fruit), and the Service Berry (*Amelanchier arborea* 'Autumn Brilliance')

Adjourn 9:40 PM

Next meeting Tuesday November 7, 7PM at Public Works.

Submitted by Ethel Dutky