

Advisory Committee on Trees – May 21, 2013

Present: Charles Jackman (Chair), Ethel Dutky (recorder), Brian Townsend (City liaison), Bob Trumbule, Kristen Wharton (Coordinator for Volunteer Maryland).

Call to Order, 7PM.

Minutes from April 16 reviewed (via e-mail), corrected and approved.

Dangerous Trees:

Ethel Dutky mentioned that a large oak is about half dead at Ridge Rd and Research Rd. Also a smaller tree is dead in the wooded area adjacent to the school driveway. Dead large branches and the dead tree should be removed.

Concerns about Invasive Species:

1 – Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus*) at Northway Fields (Wolf Field, near observatory) where large *Ailanthus* were killed about 2 years ago are coming back and invading the Forest Preserve. ACT advises some control action.

2 – Canada thistle is in several ornamental beds. Bob referred Brian Townsend to weed specialists in MDA for specific weed management for this difficult perennial weed.

Tree Report from Public Works – Brian Townsend:

The White Pine at the Municipal building is removed. Public Works is considering using a large 'Muskogee' Crape Myrtle. A pair of these crape myrtles ('Natchez' and 'Muskogee') were placed in a holding bed at Public Works when the construction was done. These are large specimens and will be expensive to move. Brian presented a bid and ACT supports the proposal.

A new generator will be installed at the Municipal Building. It will need to have a screen planting installed. Bob Trumbule made a suggestion to look into an American holly, particularly the *Ilex opaca* 'Satyr Hill' as a good screen plant.

Brian attended the monthly meeting of the BW Partnership for Forest Stewardship. The topic discussed was use of a remote sensing system that uses LIDAR to detect stressed/dying trees. If this project goes forward, this could provide a lot of information on forest health/problems to all partners. This could be very helpful in location of dying Ash trees (emerald Ash borer) and Black Walnuts (Thousand canker disease).

Kristen Wharton reports on Forest Stewardship Program:

On May 4 Tim Culbreth (MD DNR) gave a presentation on Tree Identification. He reviewed how to use a dichotomous key. Then the class went outside and measured trees using the triangle method. He also demonstrated how to do a core sample on a tree, causing great distress to one student who is also very active on the Forest Preserve Advisory Board. Kristen needed to step in and clarify the purpose of the Forest Steward program. The teacher's use of standard forestry terms (board feet of lumber) to describe the Forest Preserve implied evil future intentions which are not intended.

Forest Steward students will be helping the team (Brian Knox and James Remuzzi) to do the Tree Inventory. Kristen is doing a web site that shows the power point presentations from some of the

teachers. On April 6 Lesley Riddle gave an introduction to Sustainable Landscape Management. On April 20 the topic was Trees and Storm Water Runoff. On May 4, the topic was Tree Identification and Forestry Principles. N June 1, Nevin Dawson from the Wye Research Center will focus on Tree Physiology and Street Tree Identification. All presentations and pictures are accessible through the Greenbelt Forest Steward website.

May 1 Rick Long (DNR) conducted training for Public Works staff. Brian found the training very helpful. Rick is now done with the first part of the Forest Preserve Inventory. He has broken the Forest Preserve into 7 parcels, including the two cemeteries.

Dr Maele Neel (U.MD Professor) will be part of the study. She will look at Forest Fragmentation. She could bring in more contacts with the University of Maryland faculty and students. Dr. Neel's research will be used to develop the county's Forest Management Plan to determine green infrastructure priorities. Dr. Neel's presentation is on Kristen's new Forest Stewardship website.

ACT commends and supports Kristen and Brian for hiring professionals to develop the Forest Priorities and Policies for our Forest areas. Eventually a GIS (Geo-spatial Information System) could be established to coordinate work with U.MD faculty and County Planning. ACT supports this idea and suggests that funding be provided to purchase ARC View software for Public Works to use the GIS data and combine survey data. An ideal situation would be to hire or contract for a person to be the liaison with Planning and Public Works.

When Kristen leaves at the end of the summer for Graduate School, another person will be hired to fill the volunteer coordinator position.

Document on Sustainable Landscape Policy – The ACT revisions.

Ethel will go over the document and send a draft to ACT within 3 weeks. The goal is to make a more dynamic policy based on current and on-going research. Contradictions in recommendations should be eliminated. The Pesticide policy must be clarified with worker safety a top priority.

Adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Next Meeting – Tuesday July 2, 2013, 7PM at the New Deal Cafe.

Humbly submitted,
Ethel Dutky