

Advisory Committee on Trees – Meeting Minutes for August 9, 2012

Present: Charles Jackman (chair), Ethel Dutky (recorder), Bob Trumbule (member).

Meeting called to order at 7PM at the New Deal Cafe.

Minutes for the July 24 meeting were reviewed and corrected, then approved.

Report on Committee Chairs meeting.

On July 30 Charles attended a meeting of Advisory Committee chairs. All council members were present except for Mayor Davis. Emmet Jordan was presiding as Mayor pro tem. Each chair gave a short summary of the past year. A summary of resolutions/reports submitted by each advisory committee was circulated. Some errors in this document were discussed. Charles will follow up on when/if a decision has been made on Invasive Species Policy and on when/if a Pesticide Policy has been approved. Charles noticed that Green Aces was mistakenly listed as the advisory committee submitting the ACT policy on ice melting substances (rock salt, CMA, etc) and their potential to damage to hardscapes, and to trees and shrubs near streets and in parking islands. In December 2011 Charles submitted a report (ACT Report 2011-4: Substitution of CMA for Rock Salt) suggesting changes to the extensive use of rock salt, suggesting the use of CMA especially in the Greenbelt Roosevelt Center area. Charles will follow up on what action has been taken by city council and Public Works to implement these suggestions.

Charles will also find out what action has been taken to ACT's suggested corrections/alterations to the resolution that established our Advisory Committee on Trees (Resolution 908). We want to alter some of the wording to represent our advisory rather than supervisory relationship to Public Works.

Sustainable Land Care Policy document

Detailed discussion by ACT members concluded this document needs extensive revision and editing. Ethel Dutky has agreed to prepare an edited version for further discussion. Bob Trumbule will take primary responsibility for the Pest Management Section and Quarantine situations.

Concerns about poor pruning along BARC public roads.

Bob reports that USDA is doing roadside pruning along power lines (one example is along Research Road, another is along Powder Mill Rd toward Rte. 197). Trees are improperly cut; for example stub cut and topped. Woody pruned debris is left on the ground along the roadside. This creates a thicket of brambles and dry dead wood. Larger dead branches can be seen hanging over the guard rails. This debris blocks traffic sight lines. Bob will follow up with Lesley Riddle on this problem, providing pictures and narrative of the situation. ACT concerns include damage to tree health, increased wild fire hazard, traffic problems from blocked sight lines, and setting a poor example of tree pruning techniques.

Next meeting will be Tuesday, September 25 at 7PM at the New Deal Cafe.

Adjourn at 8:40 PM.

Submitted by Ethel Dutky