

Advisory Committee on Trees – December 11, 2012

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. at the New Deal Cafe

Present: Charles Jackman (chair), Ethel Dutky (recorder), Bob Trumbule, Lesley Riddle (City liaison), Kristen Wharton (guest, Volunteer Maryland Coordinator)

Minutes from the previous meeting Oct. 23, 2012 were accepted with corrections.

Guest presentation by Kristen Wharton (Volunteer Maryland Coordinator, Kristen@chears.org)

There will be a series of training workshops for new volunteers who will work on joint CHEARS and City projects being conducted on Greenbelt City property. In February 2013 a general informational meeting will be held on these programs. One major focus of training will be tree identification and forestry to equip the volunteers to assist in the Tree Inventory Program. The inventory will start with street trees, then park trees and city landscape trees. Eventually the Forest Preserve will be included. ACT discussed a wide variety of good local sites for field trips and plant ID for the workshops.

Tree Removals – Lesley Riddle

The large eastern white pine near the Municipal building will be removed. The trunk will be salvaged for lumber. ACT discussed and expressed great concern about the hazard status of the large willow oak at the Municipal building. ACT also discussed making suggestions for a replacement for the large willow oak once it is removed. These suggestions should include both large and medium sized trees and both native and cultivated trees.

About 1 ½ years ago Public Works received a grant to improve street tree plantings along Springhill Drive in Franklin Park. Old declining pin oaks were removed and replaced with small and medium sized trees, such as hedge maple (*Acer compestre*) and crape mytles. At the site the blue blaze means removal. Other trees will be pruned to correct problems.

The Buddy Attick Park cove project continues. All of the callery pear trees (*Pyrus calleryana* cultivars) have been removed. Birch trees have been installed and more planting will be done as a volunteer project.

PEPCO Pruning

All large wood will be recycled; suitable logs will be transported to the lumber mill. The pruning state is nearly done. Replacement of lines and poles will take at least another 6 months.

Next meeting set for 7 p.m. on Tuesday, January 22, 2013, at the New Deal Cafe.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Submitted by Ethel Dutky