

Advisory Committee on Trees - February 7, 2012.

Meeting began at 7:15 PM at the New Deal Cafe.

Present were Charles Jackman (chair), Ethel Dutky (recorder); Bob Trumbule(member), Lesley Riddle (staff liaison).

December 2011 minutes were reviewed and approved with corrections. We declared our trip to the Baltimore Mid-Atlantic Nursery Trade Show (MANTS) in Baltimore as the January 2012 ACT meeting.

ACT Report 2011 – 4 on Road Salt

Charles submitted the report summarizing ACT advice on methods to reduce the amount of rock salt applied to melt ice on Greenbelt roads and parking lots (Report # 2011-4) to City Council. Lesley responded that Public Works is addressing the issue. An alternative to rock salt, CMA is cost prohibitive but could be used in select locations. Some re-training of Public Works staff will be conducted on salt application methods which reduce damage to trees.

ACT officer election

Charles Jackman was nominated as Chair and was elected to that position for another year. Ethel Dutky was nominated and elected to serve another year as recorder.

Field Trip to MANTS on Wednesday, January 11.

The entire ACT committee attended the large nursery tradeshow. Bob collected more information on suppliers of native plants. We met with Joe Kraut (grower at Brookside Gardens and supervisor for Pope Farm, a nursery that specializes in native plants for Montgomery County Park restoration projects). Joe told us that Pope Farm has an excess of native trees and shrubs which Greenbelt could purchase for our park projects. These plants are not available for home landscapes. Bob also met with colleagues from the National Arboretum.

Lesley reports on Public Works

The large declining willow oak near the Library/Community Center has been removed.

Public Works met with PEPCO to go over PEPCO plans for replacement of utility poles and transformers. Some lines (wires) also will need to be replaced and upgraded. These activities will result in “significant Tree impact”. There will be a public meeting on Wednesday evening, Feb 8 at 8PM at the Community Center regarding this work. Lesley encouraged all ACT members to attend. In a preliminary meeting with Public Works, PEPCO expressed a desire to avoid replacement of poles in Buddy Attick Park. We discussed concerns about the arborist contractor PEPCO is using. Greenbelt has a Memorandum of Understanding with PEPCO on standards for tree pruning. The contractor is not following these standards.

Baltimore-Washington Partners for Forest Stewardship

Lesley attended the monthly meeting. Lesley reported that a number of new “Partners” have joined including: MNCPP; Bowie; Cheverly and other towns in the area.

Chesapeake Conservation Landscape Council

Lesley was invited to serve on the board of the Chesapeake Conservation Landscape Council. CCLC goals include development of educational material for sustainability and conservation planning and working with the Chesapeake Trust and Sea Grant programs.

Stream Valley project

Stream Valley restoration is progressing. Some areas are planted, but further planting is waiting until spring. One large white oak had to be removed. The old concrete stream bed will be removed and replaced with a series of step pools.

Other Projects

The Earth Day project will be at Springhill Lake Recreation Center. It aims to create a sustainable landscape. A rain garden and other plantings will be done. National Public Lands Day will be held in September in Stream Valley Park.

Forest Preserve

Public Works is considering clearing vegetation from some areas in the old Hamilton Cemetery to allow better access to the cemetery.

Unauthorized vegetation clearing

Charles contacted Lesley with concerns about vegetation clearing by a local Community association on January 22, 2012. Volunteers from Greenbrook Village were clearing the riparian buffer plantings right up to the stream banks. Lesley contacted the Greenbelt Code Enforcement and was able to stop the destruction. Greenbrook Village proposed to restore over 1 ½ acres or more, as needed.

Greenbelt 75th Celebration

Bob Trumbule will present a short talk on trees and restoration areas in Greenbelt. He is engaged in taking pictures of Greenbelt's significant trees. The event will be held on April 28th, 2012.

Next meeting will be March 13, 7PM at the New Deal Cafe.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30PM.

Respectfully submitted by Ethel Dutky