

Advisory Committee on Trees – March 13, 2012

Present: Charles Jackman (Chair), Ethel Dutky (recorder), Bob Trumbule (member), Lesley Riddle (staff liaison).

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

Minutes for Feb. 7 were reviewed and approved with corrections.

Report from Lesley Riddle

Extensive erosion damage was found in the park on Crescent Road opposite the Sunoco station. In addition, a large Red Oak was found to have a large hole at the base of the trunk, and extensive internal decay rendering this tree very dangerous. This tree will need to be removed as soon as possible. ACT agrees with this decision by Public Works.

The restoration and repairs to the picnic area in Buddy Attick Park is ongoing. This area had suffered erosion and other damage from over-use. Repairs include a rain garden and a meadow area seeded with wildflowers. The area around the picnic tables is now protected with tree fiber.

We had a discussion about our concerns about damage being done to both Buddy Attick and Schrom Hills parks by over use. Bob suggested “Stewardship” programs for parks as part of a solution to the problem.

Lesley wrote a grant submitted to Chesapeake Bay Trust to support implementation of the Tree Master Plan. Greenbelt was awarded \$23,000. Although Lesley had requested more funding, this will be very helpful for several specific projects: Canopy Assessment; Earth Day plantings; National Public Lands Day plantings. Lesley will continue to seek additional funding. We discussed opportunities for very high quality nursery stock from several nurseries which are closing. Maryland National Capitol Park and Planning (MNCPP) personnel will dig some of the larger plants with a tree spade and deliver at no cost to Greenbelt. Lesley and Bob will follow up on this opportunity.

Earth Day – April 21, 2012

Plans include building a rain garden and tree planting at the Springhill Recreation Center at 2-4PM. This will coordinate with the Open House at Public Works scheduled for 11AM- 2PM. Campfire Girls and Chesapeake Education, Arts, and Research Society (CHEARS) are also participating. Lesley will assist CHEARS with their edible forest planting.

National Public Lands Day, September 2012.

Planting activities will be held along Greenhill Rd. in Stream Valley Park. Plans emphasize addition of more trees to the plan. A contractor will install the larger trees.

Road Salt vs. CMA Issues

Lesley has been discussing this with the Public Works director. Fortunately the mild winter has not required much application of ice melt products to roads and sidewalks. Policies will be developed for next winter.

Upcoming ACT meetings

We will consider Earth Day to be our April meeting. We would like to do field trips for June and July. Lesley suggests a visit to Belt Woods. Ethel suggested a visit to Scientists Cliffs and the American Chestnut Land Trust in Calvert County.

Bob Trumbule informed us about the status of some new pest detections

The Japanese Cedar Longhorned Beetle was first found established in Harford County where it was causing extensive damage to landscape *Cryptomeria*. It also can infest Leyland Cypress, *Thuja occidentalis* (Arborvitae), Falsecypress, and Eastern Red Cedar. This new pest has recently been detected in Howard County. It is not known if the insect attacks healthy portions of conifers and is the primary cause of damage, or predominately prefers to infest damaged and stressed portions of the plant. It is moving south. Management depends on early recognition and sanitation (removal and destruction of infested branches before adult beetles emerge). We should take care to examine portions of known hosts showing sudden browning and wilt. Boxwood Blight (a new fungal leaf and shoot blight of boxwood) was recently detected in nurseries in North Carolina, Virginia and Maryland. The Maryland Department of Agriculture has found that the fungus causing Boxwood Blight can also infect Japanese Pachysandra and possibly Allegheny Pachysandra.

Next ACT Meeting will be held on May 22, 2012 at 7 PM at the New Deal Cafe

Adjourn at 8:15 PM.

Submitted by Ethel Dutky