

Advisory Committee on Trees – October 23, 2012

Meeting called to order at 7PM

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

Minutes from the September 25, 2012 meeting were reviewed and approved with some corrections.

Willow Oak at the Municipal Building

Lesley reported that Public Works requested Tim Zastrow (Bartlett Tree Experts) to do an evaluation of the large Willow Oak (*Quercus phellos*) and a White Pine (*Pinus strobus*) in the Municipal building landscape. The willow oak has been showing decline symptoms for several years. These symptoms include branch die back, early fall leaf browning and drop, dead bark on large trunks and fungal fruiting structures protruding from damaged bark areas high in the canopy. The white Pine has a large canker at the base (Buttress rot). There is no remedy for these problems. Tim Zastrow advised that both trees be removed. Lesley has made the recommendation to remove the two trees due to safety concerns. ACT strongly supports the recommendation by Public Works to remove both trees.

2012 Tree Tour

Lesley apologized to ACT for not inviting ACT to participate in this event. In 2013 Lesley will give us notice of the event and allow us to help with the event. Ethel suggested consideration of a large flowering Cherry on Lakeside Drive for consideration to be included in Greenbelt's outstanding big trees.

Sustainable Landscape Policy Document

Lesley explained that several advisory committees have the document in hand and have been invited to suggest modifications to the policy as stated. However only ACT has responded with specific suggestions. ACT has volunteered to incorporate the ACT Report on Invasive Species and to produce a basic Integrated Pest Management policy to cover other native and exotic pests.

White Poplars on Crescent Road

Ethel asked about the fate of the three white poplars (*Populus alba*) on Crescent Road near the Roosevelt Center. They have been marked with orange paint and tape. Lesley explained that this means they are marked for removal because they are under the power lines. ACT was in agreement that these are striking native trees, showing bright silver foliage. ACT requests that some white poplars be included in future plantings where they will not grow into power lines. The three trees to be removed have performed well in Greenbelt for about 40 years.

Food Forest Garden

The food forest is located in Franklin Park near the Recreation center. Volunteers (mostly youth) planted the trees. A memorial bench was placed in this area and dedicated to Dorothy Lauber. This project has grant funding to hire a volunteer coordinator. Her name is Kristin Wharton, and she has office space in the Public Works building. Her salary is paid by a non-profit "Volunteer Maryland". She will be invited to an ACT meeting to outline planned activities. She brought about 20 volunteers to the Food Forest planting day.

Plans are underway to hold a Forest Preserve guided walk on either November 10 or November 17. Lesley will let us know the time and date selected.

Buddy Attick Park work in Progress

In the cove area next to the forebay at Lakecrest Drive there are several declining/dying Callery pears (*Pyrus calleryana* – various cultivars). The declining pears (an exotic species that conflicts with the Master Plan for Buddy Attick Park) have been removed. River birches (*Betula nigra*) have been planted to replace the pears. The slope has been re-worked with stair-step levels to slow storm water run off and prevent erosion.

Report to BARC about poor roadside tree pruning.

Lesley will move forward to contact BARC.

CMA Report

Public Works will do a pilot project on substitution of CMA for Rock Salt this winter. Lesley will also look into the use of Brine application as a pre-storm application. The use of brine is an established effective practice that facilitates ice melt with less tonnage of salt applied. However, it will require purchase of specific equipment to apply the liquid brine solution.

Next meeting set for November 20, 7PM at the New Deal Cafe.

Adjourn at 8:45 PM.

Submitted by Ethel Dutky