

**Fairfax County Tree Commission**  
**Electronic Meeting Format**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022**  
**Toll Free Call in 1 888-270-9936**  
**Participant Access Code 224765**

**Call to Order**

Chair Speas called the November meeting of the Fairfax County Tree Commission to order at 7:02 p.m. on February 17, 2022, via Electronic Meeting.

**From the Chairman:**

“To conduct this meeting wholly electronically and to effectuate both the emergency procedures authorized by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, in compliance with Virginia FOIA, the Fairfax County Tree Commission must make certain findings and determinations for the record. It’s a bit cumbersome, so I ask you in advance for your patience.”

**Audibility of Members’ Voices**

“First, because each member of the Fairfax County Tree Commission is participating in this meeting from a separate location, we must verify that a quorum of members is participating, and that each member’s voice is clear, audible, and at an appropriate volume for all the other members. Accordingly, I am going to conduct a roll call, and ask each Fairfax County Tree Commission member participating in this meeting to state your name and the location from which you are participating. I ask that each of you pay close attention to ensure that you can hear each of your colleagues. Following this roll call, we will vote to establish that every member can hear every other member.”

*See Roll Call Below*

“At this point, I will pass the virtual gavel to Vice-Chairman McGlone, so that I may be heard to make the requisite motion.

I move that each member’s voice may be adequately heard by each other member of this the Fairfax County Tree Commission.”

***Commissioner Vickers seconded the motion, all in favor, no abstentions, motion carried.***

**Fairfax County Tree Commission**  
**Electronic Meeting Format**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022**  
**Toll Free Call in 1 888-270-9936**  
**Participant Access Code 224765**

**PRESENT:**

Cindy Speas, Chair, At-Large-Falls Church, VA  
Jim McGlone, Vice-Chair, VA Dept. of Forestry-Franconia, VA  
Jessica Bowser, Lee District-Fairfax, VA  
Laura Beaty, Providence District-Fairfax, VA  
John Burke, Fairfax County Park Authority-Arlington, VA  
Rick Healy, Environmental Quality Advisory Council-Annandale, VA  
Jeanne Kadet, Braddock District-Annandale, VA  
Catherine Ledec, Mt. Vernon District-Alexandria, VA  
Bret Leslie, Hunter Mill District-Vienna, VA  
Jerry Peters, NV Soil & Water Conservation District-Great Falls, VA  
Cory Suter, Springfield District-Fairfax, VA  
Robert Vickers, Dranesville District-Great Falls, VA

**ABSENT:**

Brenda Frank, VA Cooperative Extension  
Karen Campblin, Sully District  
Kevin Holland, Mason District

**STAFF:**

Brian Keightley, Urban Forest Management Division  
Tiffany Gregory, Urban Forest Management Division

**GUESTS:**

Jim Talens, Fairfax County Citizen-McLean, VA  
Loren Hershey, Fairfax County Citizen-Oakton, VA  
Elizabeth Ende, Fairfax County Citizen-McLean, VA

**Public Comment:**

Jim Talens – Made comments regarding the proposed bamboo regulations being an excessive burden on residents.

Loren Hershey - Citizen in Fairfax County for 45 years. Attending the meeting to be an informed citizen of the County.

**Approval of January Minutes**

**Fairfax County Tree Commission**  
**Electronic Meeting Format**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022**  
**Toll Free Call in 1 888-270-9936**  
**Participant Access Code 224765**

Chair Speas asked for any changes/edits for January minutes and offered changes and additions which were read and discussed.

***Commissioner Suter moved to approve January meeting minutes as amended, Commissioner McGlone seconded, no abstentions, motion carried.***

**Virginia's Freedom of Information Act - Lou Nuzzo, Assistant County Attorney**

The Assistant County Attorney discussed common questions related to Virginia's Freedom of Information Act (VFOIA) that come up with Boards, Authorities, and Commissions. Discussion topics included the simultaneity of email communications, what constitutes a public meeting, social events outside of the public meeting, formation of subcommittees, and the ability of Tree Commissioners to identify themselves in meetings outside of the tree commission.

**Reports:**

**Friends of Trees Committee Report - Commissioners Kadet and Beaty**

Commissioner Kadet gave an update on the progress of the tri-fold brochure, revision of nomination forms, and the criteria for evaluating Friends of Tree Awards. A motion was made during the January meeting to move forward with the awards criteria, but feedback was given by UFMD staff that slightly changed the approved language.

***Commissioner Kadet moved to amend the wording for Category 4, Commissioner Ledec seconded, all in favor, no abstentions, motion carried. See attachment 1.***

**Revised Tree Commission Charter Committee Report: Commissioners Healy and Peters**

Commissioner Peters gave an update about the status of the current Tree Commission Charter including a summary about how the old charter from 1973 was moved from the Zoning Ordinance to Chapter 122, Tree Conservation, of the County Code. At that time county staff suggested changes that were grammatical

**Fairfax County Tree Commission**  
**Electronic Meeting Format**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022**  
**Toll Free Call in 1 888-270-9936**  
**Participant Access Code 224765**

revisions and corrections, such as current agency and departmental names and some syntax. The substantive changes to the charter recommended by the Tree Commission in Cathy Ledec's 5 February 2021 letter to the Board of Supervisors were included when the Board approved the move to Chapter 122 in March 2021. Discussion included reviewing changes for taking them back to the Board for revision of the Charter.

***Commissioner Peters moved to approve Charter changes recommended in February 2021, Commissioner McGlone seconded, all in favor, no abstentions, motion carried.***

Since the charter may be revised again, Commissioners were asked to suggest any other changes they thought appropriate. Eleven changes were offered and discussed. Two changes involving (1) the Commission's advocacy for trees with other County agencies and (2) consistently using "protect, improve, and expand" regarding the urban forest were accepted without objection. After discussion, eight suggestions were retracted or not supported for a vote. One suggestion was brought for a vote:

***Commissioner Healy moved to not consider adding a seventh Purpose, "Ensure all tree planting and beautification efforts are conducted in pursuant to the One Fairfax policy." Commissioner McGlone seconded, 9 in favor, 3 nays, motion carried.***

### **CECAP Recommendations Report: Chair Speas**

Due to time constraints, the Chair tabled discussion on the CECAP priorities survey until the March meeting, when it will follow the presentation by the Office of Environmental Energy and Coordination's Matt Meyers on the status of CECAP.

### **Commissioners Activities**

Chair Speas asked that, given the time, all Commissioners send updates to her and Brian Keightley to be compiled and emailed to the Commission.

**Fairfax County Tree Commission**  
**Electronic Meeting Format**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022**  
**Toll Free Call in 1 888-270-9936**  
**Participant Access Code 224765**

**Announcements**

Chair Speas:

The county has issued a draft regulation on curbing the spread of bamboo. The Board of Supervisors will have a public hearing on February 22nd at 3:30. Any Commissioners interested in speaking to that regulation can go online for information or email the chair individually.

Jeanne Kadet:

- Commissioner Kadet announced a county proposal to take down up to nine acres of mature woods at Wakefield Park in the District in order to dump materials from the Lake Accotink dredging project. This is the main option under consideration. Ms. Kadet reminded the Commission she is a member of the Braddock District Land Use and Environment (BLUE) Committee which will be commenting directly on the matter. The last date for public comment is March 11, and Ms. Kadet asked for Commissioners to spread the word.
- Commissioners Kadet and Frank, in their roles as Master Gardeners, are interested in getting the Fairfax County Tree Stewards back up and running. Since the Plant NOVA Trees initiative was launched, there is a growing interest in helping trees in the county. More information to come.

Vice-Chair, Jim McGlone in the Zoom chat:

Commissioner McGlone reminds Commissioners of the upcoming Green Spring Eco-Savvy Symposium: Restoring Our Urban Forest (presented by the FCPA) on Saturday, February 19. There is still time to sign up.

**UFMD Director's Update – Brian Keightley**

Brian reported that all four of UFMD's vacancies will be filled or close to being filled by the end of March.

**Adjournment**

9:05 p.m.

**Fairfax County Tree Commission**  
**Electronic Meeting Format**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022**  
**Toll Free Call in 1 888-270-9936**  
**Participant Access Code 224765**

Attachment 1:

**MOTION TO AMEND CATEGORY 4. 2/17/22: Reading STRIKE OUTS and INSERTS**

A nominee must have demonstrated STRIKE ~~before, during, and after a project an extraordinary~~ INSERT **during planning and implementation, a strong** commitment to conservation-based actions to preserve and plant trees above and beyond Fairfax County development requirements. The project design must STRIKE ~~show~~ INSERT **have considered tree** preservation STRIKE ~~of the maximum number of suitable trees possible, given the existing resources and site constraints.~~ INSERT **and planting best practices seriously and thoughtfully, integrating the most valuable and suitable trees into the project design in a way that maximizes their value and benefit.** During construction, the project must demonstrate a commitment to installing, maintaining and honoring of tree protective devices to achieve the planned preservation, as well as replacing trees that were unavoidably harmed or destroyed due to development. STRIKE ~~After implementation, design and planning must include a commitment to tree conservation by choosing the most suitable species based on post-development conditions and providing for the long-term survival of all preserved and planted trees through best practices, including long term maintenance plans.~~ **NOTE:** priority shall be given to plans that 1) use regionally appropriate native species and utilize natural landscaping principles, and/or 2) design to maximize energy conservation opportunities, and/or to provide specific air and/or water quality or wildlife benefits.