

**TREE COMMISSION MINUTES**  
**March 16, 2017**

MEMBERS PRESENT           Kevin Holland, Mason District  
Rick Ayers, Springfield District  
Jeanne Kadet, Braddock District  
John Stokely, Fairfax County Park Authority  
Catherine C. Ledec, Mt. Vernon District  
Karen Campblin, Sully District  
Jessica M. Bowser, Lee District  
Tom Fleury, Providence District  
Robert Vickers, Chair, Dranesville District  
Jim McGlone, Vice Chair, VA Dept. of Forestry  
Rick Healy, Environmental Quality Advisory Council  
Sheila D. Allen Virginia Cooperative Extension, Fairfax County

MEMBERS ABSENT:           Chet McLaren, At-Large  
Dragan Momcilovic, Hunter Mill District  
Jerry Peters, NV Soil & Water Conservation District

STAFF PRESENT:           Keith Cline, Director, UFMD  
Ian Fuze, Urban Forester II, UFMD  
Patrick O'Brien, Urban Forester II, UFMD

**Call to Order**

Chair Vickers called the meeting to order at 7:45 pm.

**Minutes**

The February minutes were reviewed and approved with changes.

**Springfest 2017**

The Commission is looking for additional volunteers to staff the tree commission table. Ideally a minimum of two volunteers to cover each shift. Items that will be available at the table include stickers, word searches, bark from an ash tree with galleries left behind by EAB, tree rings, and a Champion Trees poster. Additional items that the Commission wishes to purchase in support of Springfest can be purchased on an as needed basis through UFMD. Additionally, Hugh Whitehead is looking for volunteers to help with tree plantings at Sully Plantation.

**Celebrated Trees**

Due to the uncertain status of the Celebrated Tree program, the public should not be encouraged to submit nominations for a Celebrated Tree at Springfest. Although nominations for Celebrated Trees are on hold, the Big Tree program will continue be promoted at Springfest. The possibility of combining the websites for the Celebrated Tree program with Board of Supervisors designated heritage, memorial, street, and specimen trees was recommended for further discussion at a later date.

### **Tree Preservation and Planting Awards Assessment Update**

Commissioner Kadet led the discussion outlining the goals of the project. Jeanne Kadet, Karen Campblin, and Catherine Ledec continue to work on a prototype evaluation form that they hope to have reviewed by UFMD. A three page form has been developed with measurable and observable criteria that may be further refined, which may utilize yes/no choices for each of the categories being evaluated. The goal is to create a form that is not burdensome to the people completing and submitting the nomination form. Eventually, an online form could be developed that would require users to completely fill out the form before submitting. Feedback is still needed from the Tree Commissioners and UFMD before having a final form ready for the 2018 nominations. A suggestion was made to reach out to the builders and landscape industry to promote the new nomination form and solicit feedback. A meeting with UFMD Staff will be set up to ensure that any improvements (1) align with staff goals and objectives for improving this process and (2) lighten the work load for staff wherever possible.

### **Tree Action Plan Update**

Meeting scheduled for March 22<sup>nd</sup> for committee review to discuss comments from the supervisors. The next step after committee review is to engage stakeholder groups and County staff for review.

### **UFMD Report**

UFMD has filled 2 new Urban Forester II positions to increase the overall capacity of Forest Conservation to review infill lot plans. Starting the week of March 20<sup>th</sup>, 100% of all Dranesville District infill lot plans will be reviewed.

The County has received a final report from University of Vermont of its analysis of County satellite imagery from 2015. The University completed a change analysis of the tree canopy and land use over the past 5 years broken down by watershed and supervisor district.

UFMD will complete another i-Tree Eco study this summer to assess the structure, function, and value of the County's urban forest that will include over 200 sample plots throughout the County. This will be an update to a previous i-Tree Eco study completed 8 to 10 years ago. County staff will be collecting data from an additional 40 plots located on Park Authority property and stream restoration projects.

Keith traveled to Lake Arrowhead, California to teach at the 12<sup>th</sup> annual Municipal Forestry Institute leadership program. The MFI leadership program provides training and leadership skills to people across the country to grow and advance their urban forestry programs.

### **Commissioner Reports**

- Commissioner Vickers thanked Catherine for the reminder of the Friends of Tree awards and encouraged anyone who knows someone who should be nominated to submit nominations by next month's meeting.

Bob mentioned in the past 1-2 months there have 3 new state champion trees in Fairfax, including a Virginia pine and red maple.

- Commissioner Rick Ayers mentioned that the Environmental Quality Advisory Council is undertaking a review of the Annual Review of the Environment to better align the report with the supervisor's environmental vision statement.
- Commissioner Stokely discussed the update to the tree commission website and the next steps to coordinate with GIS staff.
- Commissioner McGlone continues to work on development of an urban wood market to utilize wood from development that would otherwise be chipped for mulch or sent to a landfill. An urban wood forum will be held in Charlottesville on March 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>.
- Commissioner Bowser continues to work with her HOA to address non-native invasive species that threaten the trees in her neighborhood. She submitted an article about native plants to the Mount Vernon Gazette and continues to work with Nalls Produce to create a native plant section.
- Commissioner Allen announced VA Cooperative Extension diagnostic lab volunteers will be attending continuing education on conifers being held by Green Spring Gardens and that all VA Cooperative Extension staff will undergo Civil Rights Act training. Sheila also mentioned Rachel Griesmer-Zakhar and Adria Bordas are putting together a group of outreach topics that can be used at future tree forums.
- Commissioner Ledec notified the commission of tree trimming she observed along G.W. Parkway that was disturbing an active bald eagles nest and her efforts to investigate the issue.

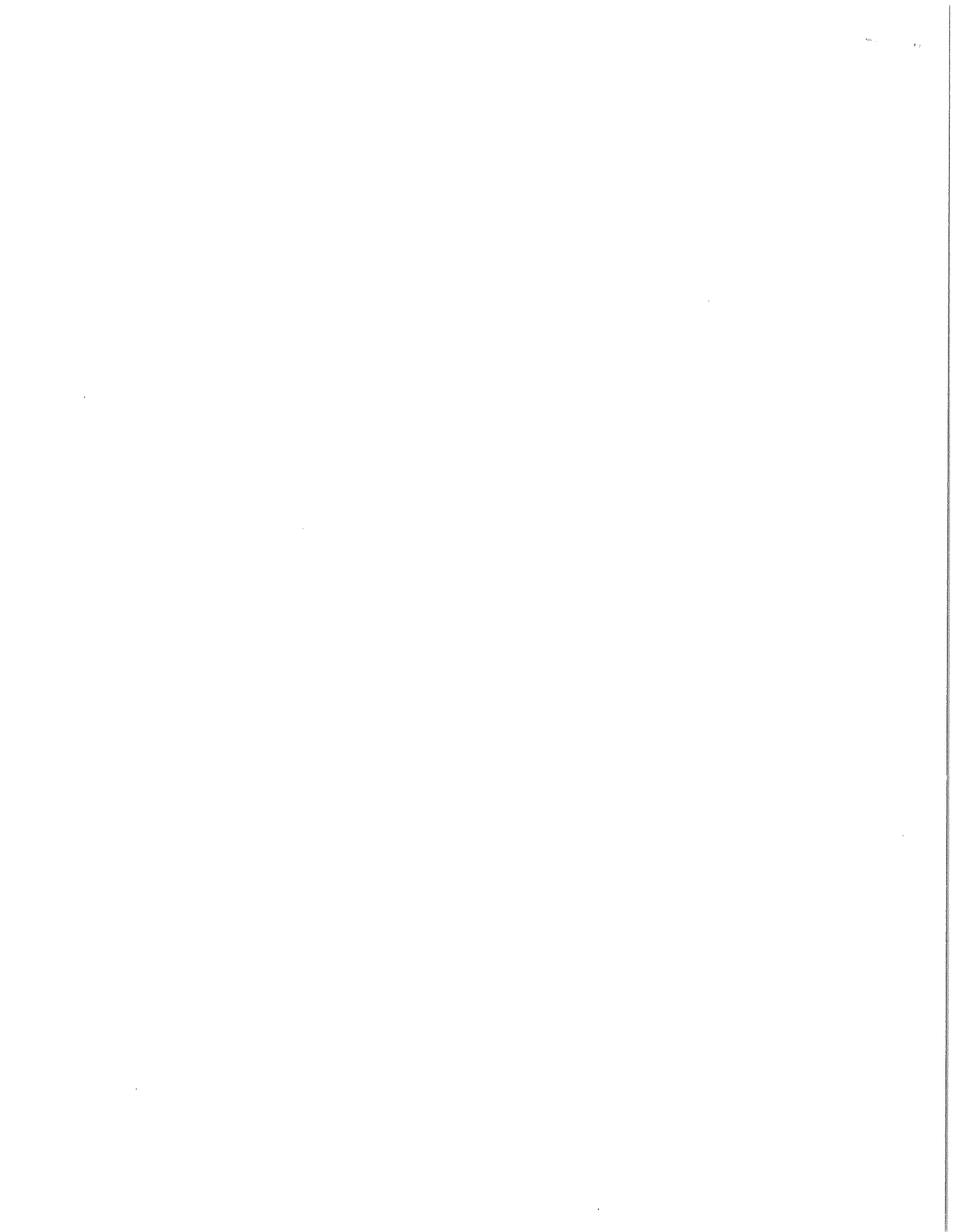
She suggested adding a section to the tree commission website that contains resources for residents on tree care or links to useful information.

Catherine thanked Nick Drunasky for his help on the sidewalk project in Hybla Valley. She handed out flyers for a program called Forest Communities and Associated Geology in NOVA and Vicinity at Huntley Meadows Park on May 10<sup>th</sup>.

- Commissioner Kadet talked about a call from a resident complaining about removal of trees on the neighbor's property that were providing a screen. Keith recommended calling UFMD if there are concerns about tree removal.

Jeanne asked about information regarding hazardous trees for an upcoming tree forum and any information about multicultural outreach provided by the County related to trees.

**Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:23 pm.



Fairfax County Tree Commission

Meeting Date: 3/16/17

SIGN IN SHEET

NAME	REPRESENTING
Cathy Ledee	MT. VERNON
Lynne Kalit	BROOKDALE
Robert McNamee	Sick + not able to attend >
Keith Cline	UFMD
Tom Fleury	PROVIDENCE
BOB VICKERS	DROESVILLE
Ken Campbell	SULLY
Sheila Allen	VCE
Kevin Holland	MASON
Jessica Bowser	
John Spohly	FCPA
Rick Healy	EQAC
James McGowan	DOF
Ian Fuze	UFMD
Patrick Brown	UFMD

