

Fairfax County Tree Commission

Meeting Minutes

10/18/2018 Room 122 Herrity Building

Opening

The monthly meeting of the Fairfax County Tree Commission was called to order at 7:38 p.m. on 10/18/2018 in room 122 of the Herrity building by Chairman Robert Vickers.

Present

Troy Shaw, Branch Chief, UFMD

Hugh Whitehead, Urban Forester III, UFMD

Rachel Jackson, Urban Forester II, UFMD Liaison

Robert Vickers, Chair, Dranesville District

Jim McGlone, Vice Chair, VA Dept. of Forestry

Rick Ayers, Springfield District

Jeanne Kadet, Braddock District

Dragan Momcilovic, Hunter Mill District

Monica Billger, At Large

Karen Campblin, Sully District

Absent

Kevin Holland, Mason District

Rick Healy, Environmental Quality Advisory Council

Jessica Bowser, Lee District

Jerry Peters, NV Soil & Water Conservation District

John Stokely, Fairfax County Park Authority

Catherine Ledec Mt. Vernon District

Vacant Seat, Providence District

Vacant Seat, Virginia Cooperative Extension

Approval of Minutes

Rick Ayers motioned to accept the Minutes for the September meeting and they were unanimously approved.

Friends of Trees Awards

Ceremony will take place on October 23, 2018 at 7:00 pm in the Government Center Auditorium.

Tree Action Plan (TAP) - Update Robert Vickers

Plan was supported by the County Supervisors, Penny Gross and Sharon Bulova and Hugh Whitehead noted that Supervisor Stork provided feedback that there should be a measurable canopy goal in the TAP. Discussion continued regarding the topic of percent canopy cover and to focus on the three factors to focus on know what we have, protect what we have and expand what we have. Is there a correlation between tree canopy and low socioeconomic areas in the County? This topic will be part of the implementation of the Tree Action Plan Update through One

Fairfax. The next steps with the plan are what? Tree Commission's role is to support UFMD and work with the Board of Supervisors. There could be a monthly update regarding the Tree Action Plan on the agenda for the Tree Commission meetings.

UFMD Report – Troy Shaw

- First round interviews have completed and the next round will be next week. Hoping to have someone to work alongside with Keith for his last month in the County.
- Thank you to Rick Healy for participating in the interview panel for the new Director of UFMD.
- Moving of the December meeting should be decided on for logistics for the meeting to be moved up a week to December 13, 2018 at 7:30pm. It was decided that the meeting will be moved to December 13, 2018.

Tree Commission Chair Nominations

Voting will occur at the November 15, 2018 meeting for Chair. Jim McGlone will continue to serve at Vice Chair unless anyone would like to run for the position. Nominations for Vice Chair can be taken at the November meeting. The nominations for Chair are as follows: Karen Campblin, Sully District and Cathy Ledec, Mount Vernon District.

Tree Preservation and Planting Awards

Six sites have been nominated and the proposed date for site visits is November 8, 2018. Hugh will send out a follow up email regarding the visit schedule and the Commission will sort out the details of vehicles.

Proposed Plan Amendment PA 2018-IV-MV2 in the Richmond Highway Corridor – Robert Vickers

Jim McGlone explained the proposal is for a development in the flood plain, RPA and EQC and if the developer is permitted to move forward it will set a precedent that will affect the entire County. County staff strongly oppose the application and so do the residents of Mount Vernon. Discussion on this topic continued and the Tree Commission can vote to support the EQAC memorandum dated August 8, 2018 and provide that to the Planning Commission meeting is October 24, 2018. Robert Vickers will email Stella directly to support the resolution and explain that members of the Tree Commission are unavailable to attend the Planning Commission meeting.

Rick Ayers made a motion to support the resolution written by Stella Koch, Chairman of Environmental Quality Advisory Council, subject: Proposed Plan Amendment PA 2018-IV-MV2 in the Richmond Highway Corridor dated August 8, 2018 and Jim McGlone seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Bob is drafting a letter to be sent to The Board of Supervisors, EQAC and Planning Commission by October 24, 2018.

Commissioner Reports

- A. Jim McGlone –

- a. Barbara White the Virginia State Community Forestry Coordinator will be retiring in the spring 2019 and the position will open. The “urban” has been dropped from the title due to the communities that are across the state.
 - b. Virginia harvested more board feet per acre of pine ever in fiscal 2018 and it cut fewer acres than 2017. This is probably due to the improvement of the loblolly pine for timber production over the last 60-70 years.
 - c. Spotted Lantern fly was first found in Winchester, VA and will be an issue for vineyards and orchards, not sure how it will impact the forests in the state. Not clear how ailanthus will play in the life cycle of the fly. There have been two false reports of finding the fly.
- B. Monica Billger
- a. Nothing to report
- C. Karen Campblin
- a. Working on a Tree Forum for 2019 – no details at this time
- D. Jeanne Kadet
- a. Tree Forum for Burke Conservancy, the date has not been set.
 - b. Guest from Braddock District that came last month said she was concerned about the number of trees that had been taken down and the care of the trees in the HOA common area. The resident should be contacting Department of Code Compliance because Zoning Ordinance Part 7 Common Open Space and Common Improvement Regulations covers this topic.
- E. Rick Ayers
- i. Avon Forest – Hugh and Jim – a property adjacent next to Burke Lake in Springfield District and a large area of trees have been cleared.
- F. Bob Vickers
- a. Email received from Save Blake Lane Park group requesting support to save the park.
 - b. Jim McGlone - the park is owned by the Board of Supervisors, it was a place holder for the expansion of the school and Park Authority might maintain the park.
 - c. Bob will send the email to the District Supervisor’s office and Monica requested the email be forwarded to her.
 - d. Dranesville – every fall Bob takes a group from the Environmental Committee on a tree walk along the Potomac Heritage Trail.
 - i. The floods this summer have ruined the trail and it no longer exists, the bridges have washed away and there are down trees blocking the trail
 - ii. State champion trees are along the trail, Bob would take a group from the Tree Commission
- G. Dragan Momcilovic
- a. Hunter Mill Tree Forum – 11/7/2018 – 7-9 pm will be in Vienna Town Hall

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 9:04 by Chairman Robert Vickers. The next general meeting will be at 7:30 on November 15, 2018, in Herrity 122.

Minutes submitted by: Rachel Jackson, Urban Forester II UFMD