

Fairfax County Tree Commission

Meeting Minutes

November 21, 2019- Room 232-Government Center Complex (GCC)

Members Present

Catherine Ledec, Chair, Mt. Vernon District
Jim McGlone, Vice Chair, VA Dept. of Forestry
Monica Billger, At-Large
Jeanne Kadet, Braddock District
Robert Vickers, Dranesville District
Dragan Momcilovic, Hunter Mill District
Jessica Bowser, Lee District
Laura Beaty, Providence District
Karen Campblin, Sully District
Rick Healy, Environmental Quality Advisory Council
Brenda Frank VA Cooperative Extension

Members Absent

Vacant Seat, Springfield District
Kevin Holland, Mason District
Jerry Peters, NV Soil & Water Conservation District

Staff Present

Brian Keightley, Director, UFMD
Hugh Whitehead, Urban Forester III, UFMD
Linda Barfield, Urban Forester II, UFMD

General Public/Guests

Cindy Speas-Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions
Brandy Mueller- Fairfax County Land Development Services Environmental Compliance

Call to Order

The monthly meeting of the Fairfax County Tree Commission was called to order at 7:35 p.m. on November 21, 2019- in suite 232 of the GCC by Chair Ledec.

Linda offered to be timekeeper.

Public Comment:

None.

Approval of Minutes

Chair Ledec presented the October minutes for review. A small change was noted by Commissioner Momcilovic as to presentation on trip to Croatia.

Commissioner Healy motioned for approval of the revised October 2019 minutes that was seconded by Commissioner Vickers. All were in favor. Motion carried for approval of October 2019 minutes.

Briefing on Environmental Compliance & Enforcement

Brandy Mueller, Branch Chief-Code Specialist III-Environmental Compliance & Enforcement Branch (ECE)-Fairfax County Land Development Services gave a presentation and overview of the regulatory authority of Chapter 103-Erosion & Sedimentation Control Ordinance-unauthorized land disturbance in excess of 2,500 ft²; Chapter 118 Chesapeake Bay Preservation Ordinance-unpermitted encroachment in the Resource Protection Area (RPA); Chapter 124-Stormwater Management Ordinance-failure to maintain SWM/BMP facilities and creating more than 18% impervious area without addressing water quality and how to report potential violations either unpermitted via Community Complaint Form

https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fido/complaints/comp_submit.aspx

or permitted land-disturbing activity

<http://fairfaxcountygis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/GeoForm/index.html?appid=1b47ffe00af44f9dbbd008d22269c4fc>

A discussion about RPA encroachments and explanation of complaint-based system and proposed outreach efforts workplan for 2020 entailed.

Announcement of new Tree Commissioner

Chair Ledec introduced and welcomed Brenda Frank who is filling the vacant VA Cooperative Extension seat.

Briefing on the Tree Preservation and Planting Awards

Hugh Whitehead, Urban Forester III-DPWES gave a presentation on the three nominations and recent tours to visit the sites. Commissioner Billger motioned to accept the nomination and award a tree preservation recognition of Stormwater Planning/FC Park Authority for the Difficult Run at Brittenford Drive-Stream Restoration Project in Hunter Mill District, seconded by Commissioner Vickers and all were in favor. The motion carries. There was a discussion on who was the developer and should get the plaque for the award.

A motion was made by Commissioner Vickers to approve a tree preservation award for Milton Peterson for 5210 Prestwick Drive in the Springfield District and was seconded and all were in favor. The motion carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner McGlone to approve a Tree Planting nomination for the Colts Neck Senior Housing aka Hunter Woods at Trails Edge

<https://www.integracare.com/hunters-woods-at-trails-edge/>

located at 2222 Colts Neck Road in Reston. The motion was seconded. 10 voted in favor and 2 voted opposed. The motion carried.

One Fairfax Policy

A motion was made by Chair Ledec to conduct business in compliance with the One Fairfax Policy dated November 21, 2017 and for affirmation of the policy. A discussion about the term affirmation (positive acceptance) entailed as related to health and environment issues versus the term acknowledgement as related to aware of the Policy and to best ability will follow the Policy. A motion was made by Commissioner Billger for the Fairfax County Tree Commission to support the One Fairfax Policy. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Campblin. Eleven voted in favor and one voted opposed. The motion carried.

Tree Commission Elections

Chair Ledec read the by-laws concerning the election process. A discussion on past processes entailed. A motion to re-nominate Chair Ledec and Vice-Chair McGlone were presented by Commissioner Kadet. Seconded by Commissioner Vickers. The candidates accepted the nominations. All voted in favor to re-elect.

UFMD Report

Brian discussed the following in his report:

- Zmod update. Encouraged to sign up for alerts. Tree Commission language proposed to be relocated from the Zoning Ordinance to the PFM. A discussion entailed. More to come in the near future.
- Update on Spotted Lantern Fly-found in Clark County, VA and WV. Pest added to the VA Dept. of Ag & Consumer Services (VDACS) list.
- Cankerworm found in low numbers; Gypsy Moth egg masses found but low numbers
- UF II position filled by Alexander Darr who was working as a limited term at Stormwater Planning and has B.S. in Urban Forestry and Master of Landscape Architecture.
- Update to revisions to PFM such as increase to critical root zone (CRZ) when conditions merit.
- Update on Fairfax Countywide Strategic Plan-Preliminary Strategies-Fall 2019-Health & Environment (HE 1)-Promote County policies, practices, & regulatory programs to protect, conserve, and rehabilitate natural resources such as tree cover and open green space.

Other Business

Chair Ledec thanked all for support at the 2019 Mount Vernon Environmental Expo held 11-16-19. Recommends the Legislation committee re-convene.

Commissioner Activities and Comments on e-reports

See e-reports

Announcements-

None

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m. by Chair Ledec. The next general meeting will be at 7:30 on December 19, 2019, in the Government Center Complex (GCC) **Room 232.**

Appendix I
Fairfax County Tree Commission e-Reports
November 2019

<p>Monica Billger</p> <p>At Large</p>	<p><i>No report</i></p>
<p>Jeanne Kadet</p> <p>Braddock District</p>	<p><i>No report</i></p>
<p>Robert Vickers</p> <p>Dranesville District</p>	<p><i>No report</i></p>
<p>Dragan Mocilovic</p> <p>Hunter Mill District</p>	<p>I have verified that the Old Courthouse Stream Restoration project is starting (some of the machinery and equipment are in place). According to the information I got and on this page /publicworks/stormwater/plans-projects/old-courthouse-spring-branch-gosnell-road-stream-restoration, the project is expected to be completed in Spring 2021. Again, more information is at that link.</p>
<p>Jessica Bowser</p> <p>Lee District</p>	<p>After several months of coordination with Monica Perz-Waddington, Virginia Master Naturalist, the first tree planting project in the Lee High School pyramid took place on November 7 at Lee High School. FCPS staff and the Lee District School Board member were in attendance. Hugh Whitehead led the tree planting project with students and provided instruction. The guests in attendance received a personal tour of the school courtyard, which is in the process of being transformed into an outdoor classroom. Plans have been made to repeat this activity with nearly every school in the Lee HS pyramid. Kudos to Monica Perz-Waddington for her vision and efforts to make this project a reality. The following is a press release for the event.</p>

Summary of Lee Pyramid Tree Planting Project

Monica Perz-Waddington 11/3/19

Email: monica.perz@verizon.net

Tel. 703-822-0679

In response to the United Nations Climate Report and the Fairfax County Green Initiative, Lee High School is leading their FCPS Pyramid by giving students hands on opportunities to improve the health of our planet. Spearheaded by Monica Perz-Waddington, a Virginia Master Naturalist, outdoor educator, and parent volunteer, all nine schools in Lee Pyramid have agreed to plant new trees on their campuses this school year.

Individual schools across Fairfax County have been planting trees on their properties, and FCPS Facilities supports schools to increase ecological landscaping. However, Mrs. Waddington felt that a larger scale effort was needed to address the urgency of our climate crisis. She worked with the Fairfax County Urban Forestry Division to procure funding for new trees. Lee High School, Key Middle School, and Forestdale Elementary School have already received grants from the county Tree Preservation and Planting Fund to install new trees on their campuses this Fall. Lee High School will plant their first group of trees on Thursday, November 7, 2019.

We hope that the success of our efforts in Lee Pyramid will encourage every school in FCPS to plant new trees as well. Trees cross the core curriculum at the elementary, middle, and high school levels. Planting trees also supports the FCPS Portrait of a Graduate by nurturing Ethical and Global Citizens. By planting, studying, and supporting more trees on campuses, students will develop skills and

attitudes to combat the dire trajectory of climate disruption. Through action, our young people will gain hope, and increase their self-efficacy and resilience. Students will gain a better understanding of their role in supporting the Fairfax County Green Initiative, increasing the tree canopy in our county, and being a part of a global youth movement for a sustainable future.

Description of Student Service Learning from Rachel Clausen, Coordinating Teacher:

The goal of these trees is to support active environmental and climate change education at Lee HS. My role as the main teacher contact has been to involve our new Environmental Science course in this service learning and tie it directly with our academic learning. We selected the new Environmental Science because this class is all about getting involved in the actual science so getting dirty and planting trees was perfect for them. They are a class of 19 ESOL team taught Environmental Science students who are mixed grades but mostly 9th graders. For the last two weeks students have been learning about the water and carbon cycle. After this event they will over the next month be making and observing closed bottle ecosystem models to discover more about the balance of water and carbon in our environment. Before Thanksgiving Break and in March before Spring break we will start a twice a year new event of measuring the trees. The long term plan is for them and future Environmental Science students to track the annual changes in tree diameter (DBH) and height. These measurements can help us track tree growth and health. Students calculate carbon storage and make connections to how this process of planting trees can help combat climate change.

	<p>Next, in spring 2020 the same group will take our Lancer Outdoor Lab compost and butterfly native plant seeds to build a butterfly garden. Between these additional trees and this new butterfly garden, we will be certifying as an Eco-schools certified school yard habitat and applying for the Bronze Level Eco-School Award by National Wildlife Federation. We are super thankful for the support from the Lee HS administration, grounds staff, custodial staff, local Master Naturalists and Gardeners, NVSWCD, Fairfax Storm water, and FCPS Get2Green who have all given us time, supplies, and support! We hope to showcase students' stewardship reflections during Earth Week through an Environmental Showcase in April and everyone is invited!</p>
<p>Catherine C. Ledec (Chair)</p> <p>Mount Vernon District</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Highly successful 2019 Mount Vernon District Environment Expo: How YOU can act on Climate Change</u> was held on Saturday November 16, 2019. from 8am to 12 noon at Walt Whitman Middle School on Parkers Lane in Alexandria. This event hosted more than 200 engaged attendees, an exhibit hall packed with 40+ exhibitors covering topics related to climate change. Urban Forestry Staff were represented, Jim McGlone presented a workshop on trees and more. 2. <u>Fairfax County Stormwater Project at Mount Vernon District Governmental Center</u> Met with staff team on November 7, 2019: 65% plan presented includes replacing trees planted in error under power lines that are declining and enhancing plantings. New Bioretention areas will be established and existing ones reworked to the maximum extent possible for MS4 permit credits. Possibly reach out to Inova Mount Vernon to coordinate with large grassy area on property adjacent to Governmental Center. <p>Seek collaboration with Inova Mount Vernon whose directly adjacent property includes a 99+ year lease with a very large area covered with turf grass. Land</p>

	<p>Use should be coordinated with the county project to maximize combined ecosystem function.</p> <p>3. <u>Virginia Clinicians for Climate Action:</u> Met with this group of health care professionals who focus their work on the health impacts of climate change, trees are an important aspect of this. Possible future speaker and engaged advocacy group in the County.</p> <p>4. <u>Tree Planting</u> – Carl Sandburg Middle School, November 14 and 20, 2019. Grant Funds received from Tree Planting Fund.</p>
<p>Laura Beaty</p> <p>Providence</p>	<p>--Joined several other commissioners on the Tree Conservation Awards Tour to observe landscaped properties in Fairfax, Vienna and Reston that have been recommended for awards for the exceptional value of the native plantings included in those landscapes. Linda Barfield, Fairfax County Urban Forester, provided an excellent tour of the sites.</p> <p>--Attended the 50th anniversary of Hidden Oaks Nature Center in Annandale, and from the Virginia Native Plant Society table talked to the children about the variety of trees on the grounds surrounding the Center.</p> <p>--Attended the Fall Festival at Blake Street Park and gave a nature walk for tree identification and how the invasive plants are impacting the future of the native trees there.</p>
<p>Charles Rick Ayers</p> <p>Springfield District</p>	<p><i>No report</i></p>
<p>Karen Campblin</p> <p>Sully District</p>	<p><i>No report</i></p>

Kevin Holland Mason District	<i>No report</i>
Jim McGlone (Vice-Chair) VA Department of Forestry	<i>No report</i>
Richard (Rick) Healy EQAC	<i>No report</i>
John Stokely Fairfax County Park Authority	<i>No report</i>
Jerry Peters NVSWCD	<i>No report</i>
Brenda Frank Virginia Cooperative Extension	<i>No report</i>