

Fairfax County Tree Commission

Meeting Minutes

December 19, 2019- Room 232-Government Center Complex (GCC)

Members Present

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
Jerry Peters, NV Soil & Water Conservation District
Brenda Frank VA Cooperative Extension
John Burke, Fairfax County Park Authority

Members Absent

Vacant Seat, Springfield District
Kevin Holland, Mason District
Catherine Ledec, Chair, Mt. Vernon District

Staff Present

Brian Keightley, Director, UFMD
Linda Barfield, Urban Forester II, UFMD

General Public/Guests

None

Call to Order

The monthly meeting of the Fairfax County Tree Commission was called to order at 7:35 p.m. on December 19, 2019- in suite 232 of the GCC by Vice-Chair McGlone.

Public Comment:

None.

John Burke was welcomed as the new Tree Commissioner representing the Fairfax County Park Authority.

Approval of Minutes

Vice-Chair McGlone presented the November minutes for review. A small change was noted by Commissioner Peters as to Members Absent.

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

Briefing on status ZMOD-Tree Commission Charter

A discussion was had about the ZMOD team plans to move the Tree Commission Charter out of the Zoning Ordinance to some where else, possibly Chapter 122-Tree Conservation Ordinance. Also, would provide an opportunity to update Charter language first written in 1973, as needed. A discussion entailed about pros and cons of moving and language updates. Commissioners stated interest in updating the Charter language. Vice-Chair McGlone recommended Commissioners send comments to Brian prior to **Thursday, January 9th** and be ready to vote on edits at January 16th, meeting.

Briefing on Planning-BOS matter- item 5a-low and no-cost tree planting-

Brian discussed the presentation he gave to the BOS about the tree survey results (sent on 10/24) and directive. In order to report back to the BOS for June 2020, a charette planning format has been recommended for February or early March 2020 with the Tree Commissioners, stakeholders, community of practice. A technical tree planting research presentation by UFMD staff is proposed for the January meeting. State legislation limits the County's ability to give direct support to private property owners for tree planting. A discussion on possible facilitators for the charette entailed.

The Joint Environmental Task Force (JET)

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicaffairs/fairfax-countys-joint-environmental-task-force-seeks-members> was also discussed. The roles of FCPS principals, facilities, and "Get to Green" and possible lawn to forest conversions on school properties was also discussed and long-term tree planting maintenance issues.

It was recommended that Tree Commission get on agenda of JET to give a presentation possibly on low hanging fruit tree issues. A discussion was had about the Fairfax County school board create policy for long-term tree maintenance related to health benefits to students. Volunteers will be needed to write a draft report prior to June 30th.

UFMD Report

Brian discussed the following in his report:

- Supervisors Storck and Gross will preside over the BOS-Environmental Committee-Jan. 2020

- McKay guidance stating under his leadership, adjusts by only having presentations on BOS action items at committee meetings. Discussion of TAP and need to explain with a five-minute speech/one pager to your district Supervision.
- Save the date sent-Friday, Jan. 24th- Land and Tree Conservation Awards will be held from 10:00-11:30 at the BOS Auditorium, all were invited to attend. (<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/landdevelopment/land-and-tree-conservation-awards>) LDS is organizing.
- Talks with executive director of Casey Trees Foundation, looking to expand to Fairfax County area and develop a partnership.
- State and Federal lobbying reminder from County Attorney that the BOS legislative priority package is the only position from Fairfax County. A clarification discussion entailed about advocating.

Other Business

Commissioner McGlone added about a meeting held with staff from Loudoun County and Town of Leesburg which have an interest if re-visiting the state legislation governing an increase in percentage of tree canopy (COV 15.2-961).

Commissioner Activities and Comments on e-reports

See e-reports. Commissioner Vickers talked about data on Big trees. 21 state champion trees reported in Fairfax County. Reasons based on Northern Virginia being one of the most biodiverse areas in Virginia with three of the five physiographic provinces.

Discussion on Bull Run Winery issues raised by Commissioner Campblin.

Announcements

None

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m. by Vice-Chair McGlone. The next general meeting will be at 7:30, Thursday, January 16th in the Government Center Complex (GCC) **Room 232**.

Appendix I
Fairfax County Tree Commission e-Reports
December 2019

Monica Billger At Large	<i>No report</i>
Jeanne Kadet Braddock District	<i>No report</i>
Robert Vickers Dranesville District	<i>No report</i>
Dragan Mocilovic Hunter Mill District	<i>No report</i>
Jessica Bowser Lee District	<p>Commissioner’s Report – Jessica Bowser, Lee District December 19, 2019</p> <p>After several months of coordination with Monica Perz-Waddington, Virginia Master Naturalist, the second tree planting project in the Lee High School pyramid took place on November 26 at Forestdale Elementary School, a Title I school, with four first grade classes.</p> <p>Hugh Whitehead led the tree planting project with students and provided instruction. Four trees were planted on the front grounds of the school. Students were actively involved in all stages of the planting activity. Prior to planting, students learned about the lifecycle and anatomy of a tree as well as the role of trees in our ecosystem and the importance of conservation. Discussion was had regarding environmental stewardship.</p> <p>The tree planting event was featured on the evening news channel Local DMV. The link to the newstory is here: https://www.localdvm.com/news/virginia/first-grade-students-used-grownup-tools-to-plant-trees-learn-about-the-environment/</p> <p>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> <p>Summary of Lee Pyramid Tree Planting Project Monica Perz-Waddington 11/3/19 Email: monica.perz@verizon.net Tel. 703-822-0679</p>

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

	<p>because this class is all about getting involved 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> <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) Mount Vernon District</p>	<p>1. Little Hunting Creek Sewer Line Replacement Project: Contacted by several residents impacted by this Fairfax County – Mount Vernon District project who are concerned about proposed large trees to be removed in riparian area. This project has planned tree removal in the permanent easement for the sewer line where it comes across Little Hunting Creek and ties into the sewer line underneath Thomas J. Stockton Parkway. Replanting outside of the permanent easement should be investigated with project staff.</p>

	<p>FYI: As a linear project Urban Forest Management Division is not involved in review of this work though they could be brought in if the project team seeks out technical guidance on specific site issues.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Contacted by a Cub Scout pack leader interested in a planting and environmental improvement project in the Mt. Vernon District. Seek out connecting with Tree Planting projects proposed at Mount Vernon District Schools. 3. At the Mt. Vernon Environmental Advisory Committee meeting a school group in the Lorton area is interested in a tree planting at their school. They will be connected with Will Friedman who has prepared some recommendations for tree plantings at schools to help them plan this project.
Laura Beaty Providence	<i>No report</i>
<i>Vacant</i> Springfield District	<i>No report</i>
Karen Campblin Sully District	<i>No report</i>
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>
<i>Vacant</i> Fairfax County Park Authority	<i>No report</i>
Jerry Peters NVSWCD	<i>No report</i>
Brenda Frank Virginia Cooperative Extension	<i>No report</i>