

FAIRFAX COUNTY TREE COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

February 20, 2020-Room 232-Government Center Complex (GCC)

PRESENT:

Catherine Ledec, Chair Mt. Vernon District
Jim McGlone, Vice-Chair, VA Dept. of Forestry
Jeanne Kadet, Braddock District
Kevin Holland, Mason District
Laura Beaty, Providence District
Rick Healy, Environmental Quality Advisory Council
Brenda Frank, VA Cooperative Extension
Jerry Peters, NV Soil & Water Conservation District
John Burke, Fairfax County Park Authority
Monica Billger, At-Large
Robert Vickers, Dranesville District
Dragan Momcilovic, Hunter Mill District
Jessica Bowser, Lee District

ABSENT:

Vacant seat, Springfield District
Karen Campblin, Sully District

OTHERS:

Linda Barfield, Urban Forester II, UFMD
Brian Keightley, Director UFMD
Hugh Whitehead, Urban Forester III, UFMD
Don Lacquement - Site Code and Development Branch, LDS
Jan Leavitt - Site Code and Development Branch, LDS
Anna Ricklin, Health in All Policies Manager - Fairfax County Health Department

George Ledec-Guest

Chair Ledec called the monthly meeting of the Fairfax County Tree Commission to order at 7:35 p.m. on February 20, 2020 in suite 232 of the GCC.

Public Comment:

George Ledec commented that looking forward to approval of the Tree Action Plan (TAP 2019) on Tuesday, 2-25 by the Board of Supervisors.

A brief discussion of the TAP 2019 entailed.

Approval of Minutes

A motioned for approval of the revised minutes was seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried for approval of the January 16, 2020 minutes.

Briefing on Phase 2 edits to the Public Facilities Manual Chapter 12-Tree Conservation

Chair Ledec gave background update and introduced Brian who asked Jan Leavitt and Don Lacquemen to introduce themselves. Brian explained that RPA plantings have been pulled from Chapter 12 and will be submitted under a separate cover. At the next monthly meeting John Friedman and Charles Smith will be on hand to walk through the proposed language.

Jan explained changes will be sent via email and public hearings will be held.

Presentation on Health in All Policies - Anna Ricklin

Anna discussed goals of public health and linkages with trees. Talked about language and words such as equity, conservation, and development that may have different meanings depending on audience. Presented definitions of public health and how shaping the environment we live in as a society. Discussed the concepts of her work and Big “P” and little “p” policies. Zipcode gaps and Community Health Assessment (CHA) objectives were also discussed. Sidewalks, trail easements, utility conflicts with tree preservation and the Park Rx program (<https://parkrxamerica.org/>), conservation landscapes, NVSWCD-VCAP state program, Conservation Assistance Program <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/soil-water-conservation/conservation-assistance-programs> were also mentioned.

UFMD Report

Brian discussed the following in his report: and

- County executive requests assistance to create awareness about the upcoming census 2020-April 1.
- Tree Planting Charrette is programmed for March 12th.
- Update on solar panels in parking lot retrofits, meetings between UFMD and contractor selected Sun Tribe Solar. <https://suntribesolar.com/about/>
- Short term UFMD/STM reforestation contract possibly at Norman Cole plant

- Creating maps with Health Department of vulnerability areas with urban tree canopy analysis data overlays.
- The Fairfax County Earth Day Festival (formerly known as Springfest) is scheduled for Saturday, April 25 from 10AM-4PM at Sully Historic Site . Vice-Chair McGlone mentioned the 148th anniversary of Arbor Day (4-24-2020-last Friday of April).
- Updates on Tree Commission Charter pending
- Provided information about merit conversion for three positions; one Admin. Assistant II and two UF I positions.

Other business

Commissioner Peters mentioned quotes made by Board Chairman McKay such as no net loss of 57% tree canopy is good but need to collaborate with private landowners. Vice-Chair McGlone mentioned the Forest Stewardship Program (<http://dof.virginia.gov/manage/stewardship/index.htm>) which has a minimum land size area and provides services to private landowners.

Discussion about next steps for TAP 2019 and Community of Practice participation, innovation bottlenecks, implementation changes and challenges. Recommendation to draft letter for BOS signature, to County Executive to agency heads to implement TAP 2019 & any possible future funding implications. Legislative sub-committee meeting scheduled for April-May to discuss, including possible changes to 961.1. Vice-Chair McGlone mentioned a directive to DEQ to research if tree preservation and tree planting can be added to Stormwater Toolbox for credits. He also mentioned that the NVSWCD seedling sale is sold out. Commissioner Burke mentioned any surplus seedlings will be donated to the Park Authority for planting on park properties.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30pm.

Fairfax County Tree Commission e-Reports
February 2020

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	<i>No report</i>
Catherine C. Ledec (Chair) Mount Vernon District	<i>No report</i>
Laura Beaty Providence	<p>—Participated in the Audubon at Home Brunch and gave a program on native plants/pollinators.</p> <p>—Met with Supervisor Dalia Palchik and discussed Tree Action Plan and upcoming Earth Day events in the county and Providence District.</p> <p>—Met with a manager at the IHOP at Blake Lane and Lee Highway and talked about the over-mulching of their ornamental trees on site. He seemed to appreciate the information and was happy to have a copy of the new Tree Basics booklet.</p>
Charles Rick Ayers 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	<p>During the week of February 10 to 14 the Urban Forest Strike Team, a multi agency response team, responded to the Spotted Lantern Fly emergency in the City of Winchester and Frederick County, Virginia. The Spotted Lantern Fly is a potentially devastating agricultural pest of grapes, apples, pears and stone fruit and is a significant stressor of urban and forest trees. Although this pest has been observed feeding on over 70 species of trees and herbaceous plants, one of its preferred host is the invasive tree of heaven.</p>

	<p>The Urban Forest Strike Team was originally created to evaluate residual risk in storm damaged trees, it showed its flexibility by collecting data for the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services in their response to this pest. During the four days spent in the field the Strike Team geolocated and categorized 12,680 trees of heaven. About 3/4 ths of the trees were under 6 inches in diameter and will be treated with herbicide; the remainder will be treated with a systemic insecticide to act as "trap trees" that will kill Spotted Lantern Fly that feed on them. The data collected will allow VDACS to create a request for proposals for a contract to treat the trees and speed the contractor's work. It is hoped that this work will slow the spread of the pest while we figure out how to eradicate or habituate it.</p>
<p>Richard (Rick) Healy EQAC</p>	<p><i>No report</i></p>
<p>John Stokely Fairfax County Park Authority</p>	<p><i>No report</i></p>
<p>Jerry Peters NVSWCD</p>	<p><i>No report</i></p>
<p>VACANT Virginia Cooperative Extension</p>	<p><i>No report</i></p>