

**Fairfax County Tree Commission**  
**Electronic Meeting Format**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, February 18, 2021**  
**Toll Free Call in 1 888-270-9936**  
**Participant Access Code 224765**

**Call to Order**

Chairwoman Ledec called the monthly meeting of the Fairfax County Tree Commission to order at 2:02p.m. on February 18, 2021 via Electronic Meeting.

**From the Chairman:**

To conduct this meeting wholly electronically and to effectuate both the emergency procedures authorized by FOIA, the Fairfax County Tree Commission to make certain findings and determinations for the record. It's a bit cumbersome, so I ask you in advance for your patience.

**Audibility of Members' Voices**

First, because each member of the Fairfax County Tree Commission is participating in this meeting from a separate location, we must verify that a quorum of members is participating, and that each member's voice is clear, audible, and at an appropriate volume for all of the other members. Accordingly, I am going to conduct a roll call, and ask each the Fairfax County Tree Commission member participating in this meeting to state your name and the location from which you are participating. I ask that each of you pay close attention to ensure that you can hear each of your colleagues. Following this roll call, we will vote to establish that every member can hear every other member.

***See Roll Call Below***

At this point, I will pass the virtual gavel to the Vice-Chairman, so that I may be heard to make the requisite motion.

I move that each member's voice may be adequately heard by each other member of this the Fairfax County Tree Commission.

***Commissioner McGlone- Commissioner Vickers seconds motion, none opposed, motion carries.***

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**Need for an Electronic Meeting**

Second, having established that each member's voice may be heard by every other member, we must next establish the nature of the emergency that compels these emergency procedures, the fact that we are meeting electronically, what type of electronic communication is being used, and how we have arranged for public access to this meeting.

Therefore, I move that the State of Emergency caused by the COVID-19 pandemic makes it unsafe for the Fairfax County Tree Commission to physically assemble and unsafe for the public to physically attend any such meeting, and that as such, FOIA's usual procedures, which require the physical assembly of the Fairfax County Tree Commission and the physical presence of the public, cannot be implemented safely or practically. I further move that this the Fairfax County Tree Commission may conduct this meeting electronically through a dedicated audio conferencing line, and that the public may access this meeting by calling 1-888-270-9936 Conference Code: 224765. It is so moved.

*Commissioner McGlone, Commissioner Beaty seconds motion, none opposed, motion carries*

**Need to dispense with FOIA's Usual Procedures to Assure Continuity in Government/Continue Operations**

Finally, it is next required that all of the matters addressed on today's agenda must address the Emergency itself, are necessary for continuity in Fairfax County government, and/or are statutorily required or necessary to continue operations and the discharge of the Fairfax County Tree Commission] lawful purposes, duties, and responsibilities. It is so moved.

*Commissioner McGlone, Commissioner Vickers seconds motion, none opposed, motion carries*

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**PRESENT:**

Catherine Ledec, Chair Mt. Vernon District – Alexandria, VA  
Jim McGlone, Vice-Chair, VA Dept. of Forestry-Franconia, VA  
Monica Billger, At-Large – Alexandria, VA  
Jeanne Kadet, Braddock District- Annandale, VA  
Robert Vickers, Dranesville District - Great Falls, VA  
Bret Leslie, Hunter Mill District, Vienna, VA  
Laura Beaty, Providence District, Fairfax, VA  
Cory Suter, Springfield District – Fairfax Station, VA  
Rick Healy, Environmental Quality Advisory Council – Annandale, VA  
John Burke, Fairfax County Park Authority, Arlington, VA  
Brenda Frank, VA Cooperative Extension, Mclean, VA  
Jerry Peters, NV Soil & Water Conservation District, Great Falls, VA  
Jessica Bowser, Lee District, Alexandria, VA

**ABSENT:**

Kevin Holland, Mason District  
Karen Campblin, Sully District

**OTHERS:**

Brian Keightley, Director, UFMD – Fairfax Station, VA  
Tiffany Thrasher, UFMD-Culpeper, VA  
Hugh Whitehead, UFMD-Lovettsville, VA

**GUESTS:**

Cindy Speas, Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions, Falls Church, VA

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**Public Comment:**

None.

**Approval of January Minutes**

Discussion regarding January meeting minutes.

*Chair McGlone moves to approve minutes, Commissioner Leslie seconds motion, none opposed, motion carries. January meeting minutes approved.*

**2021 Tree Commission Annual Report Planning & Assignments**

Discussion on how to go forward with the report. Discussion of framework goals and core recommendations in the Tree Action Plan (TAP) (Page 23) and how the Tree Commission will respond to the Board of Supervisors (BOS) in their annual report. Chair Ledec suggested that it should be tied back to the TAP and the Green Initiatives Board Matter. Discussion continues regarding formatting, resources and additional information that can be included in the report.

**Community of Practice Meeting Planning & Discussion (continues from January)**

The goal is to hold the meeting at the end of March or early in April. Discussion about agenda items (i.e. 2021 Tree Commission Annual Report to the BOS preparations, etc.), setting expectations about the Community of Practice reporting, and whom to invite, going off of the list of invitees from the Tree Planting Charette, March 2020. Discussion on meeting time limit and possibly identifying an independent facilitator. Zoom meeting structure discussion about break out rooms/sessions. There will be a poll sent out to the Commissioners with suggested dates and times for the Community of Practice 2021 virtual meeting.

**Other Business**

Commissioner Kadet-Plant NOVA Native is working on a publicity outreach project that will be focused on increasing tree plantings.

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Commissioner Suter-Comments going back to the Annual Report and our level of detail are we seeing in the forest regarding biodiversity. Commissioner McGlone explains the species diversity in Fairfax County forests including native and invasive species.

Commissioner Burke-Biodiversity target condition discussion.

**UFMD Directors Update**

Brian Keightley

Spotted Lanternfly anticipation; Tree of Heaven removal in the County; Randy Bartlett, DPWES Director planned retirement; Eleanor ‘Ellie’ Coddington, new Deputy Director in DPWES; Completion of a public facing Tree Preservation & Planting webpage will be published in the next few days.

**Commissioner Activities and Comments on E-Reports**

Commissioner Vickers & Commissioner Peters - Efforts to preserve an historic oak grove at the Grange in Great Falls;

Commissioner Leslie - Questions about the process of the changes in the Zoning Ordinance and if the tree commission have a chance to comment/make changes;

Brian Keightley - Tree Preservation Planting Awards update. Channel 16 production of FOT & TAAP awards ceremony and award winners

Commissioner Burke - NVSWD seedling sale and potential areas that unpurchased seedlings will be used for. FCPA applied for a grant through Virginia Dept. of Forestry to use for reforestation/afforestation projects.

Commissioner Suter - Fairfax Food Council presenting a ‘Garden Workshop’ series.

**Adjournment**

3:57pm