

Fairfax County Tree Commission
Electronic Meeting Format
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 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 2:03p.m. on March 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 Frank Seconds motion, none opposed, motion carries.

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

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 Vickers seconds, 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 Beaty Second, Non Opposed, Motion Carries

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

PRESENT:

Catherine Ledec, Chair Mt. Vernon District – Alexandria, VA
Jim McGlone, Vice-Chair, VA Dept. of Forestry-Franconia, VA
Jeanne Kadet, Braddock District- Annandale, VA
Robert Vickers, Dranesville District - Great Falls, VA
Bret Leslie, Hunter Mill District, Vienna, VA
Jessica Bowser, Lee District, Alexandria, VA
Kevin Holland, Mason District, Falls Church, VA
Laura Beaty, Providence District, Fairfax, VA
Rick Healy, Environmental Quality Advisory Council – Annandale, VA
Brenda Frank, VA Cooperative Extension, Mclean, VA
Karen Campblin, Sully District, Fairfax, VA

ABSENT:

Monica Billger, At-Large (Resigned as of 3/17/2021)
Cory Suter, Springfield District
Jerry Peters, NV Soil & Water Conservation District
John Burke, Fairfax County Park Authority

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
Bill Brian, Diane Basheer, and Jason Hong, Basheer & Edgemoore, Tree
Preservation and Planting Awardee-Rivermont
Dragan Momcilovic, Friends of Trees Awardee
Philip Latasa, Friends of Accotink Creek, Friends of Trees Awardee

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

Public Comment:

None.

Approval of February Minutes

Discussion regarding February meeting minutes.

Commissioner McGlone, Commissioner Vickers Second, Non Opposed, Motion Carries

2020 Friends of Trees and Tree Preservation & Planting Awards

Presentation of award winners to the Commissioners & Awardee's. The presentation will be posted to the Tree Commission webpage. Former Tree Commissioner Dragan Momcilovic, representatives from Basheer & Edgemore, and Philip Latasa offered their thanks to the Tree Commissioners for the recognition.

2021 Annual Report-Table of Contents Outline

Discussion and comments on the 2021 annual report and 'Progress & Results Matrix'.

The intent is to send the matrix out to participants from the Community of Practice participants and they will fill out the matrix with data that they have collected/activities that were completed from last year.

Discussion on integrating Green Initiatives into the 'Progress & Results Matrix' and what may be missing. Chair Ledec suggested data points to be added (i.e. number of trees planted/removed, diversity planting list, and indicators of success, etc.).

Community of Practice Meeting Planning-Discussion (continued from February)

Discussion about planning April's Community of Practice meeting. Survey to be sent out to past participants with questions regarding date/time/challenges. Discussion on whether to combine April's tree commission meeting with the Community of Practice meeting. Suggested that this question be put in the survey.

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

Other Business

Commissioner Kadet

Plant Nova Natives meeting summary.

Commissioner Vickers

Update on meeting to save the oak grove at The Grange.

UFMD Director's Update

Hugh Whitehead-Update on school tree planting schedule & Arbor Day Foundation program, 'Tree Campus, K-12'.

UFMD Forest Conservation Branch Chief position vacancy.

UFMD Retirements of Tom French & Dane Kielsgard.

County is moving forward with 'Collective Bargaining' with employees.

CBPA (Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act) General Assembly update.

GIS 2021 Aerial Imagery acquisition.

Street Tree Workgroups-Dept of Planning & Development.

UFMD additional vacancies for Urban Forester II & several Co-op positions.

Running Bamboo Ordinance and Invasive Species.

UFMD Funding of the tree plantings and native natural landscaping's at the Suffragette Memorial at Occoquan Park in Lorton.

Commissioner Activities & Comments on e-reports

Commissioner Beaty

Participated in drafting policy statement on behalf of the Virginia Native Plant Society to protect stream banks in the City of Alexandria from damages done ostensibly to protect stream-bank erosion with practices that actually damage wide swaths of the banks including massive losses of older trees. There is growing support by public and conservation organizations to halt this practice.

Volunteering at Blake Street Park to remove invasive plants, planting native perennials and caging young trees from deer damage, and ongoing efforts to remove English ivy from large native trees. In April it is hoped that Fairfax County Supervisors will transfer this property from the Fairfax County school property list to the Fairfax County Park Authority. The Park Authority probably already knows that the park has more than its share of *Ailanthus altissima* - tree-of-heaven to deal with there.

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

Commissioner McGlone

Attending iTree training through the Virginia Dept of Forestry.

Commissioner Bowser

Commissioner Suter was a guest on her last podcast. Talked about edible landscaping, urban farming and planting natives in your own yard. Commissioner Bowser to email a link to her podcast to the commissioners.

Adjournment

402pm

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

E-Reports

Commissioner Beaty:

Participated in drafting policy statement on behalf of the Virginia Native Plant Society to protect stream banks in the City of Alexandria from damages done ostensibly to protect stream-bank erosion with practices that actually damage wide swaths of the banks including massive losses of older trees. There is growing support by public and conservation organizations to halt this practice.

— Volunteering at Blake Street Park to remove invasive plants, planting native perennials and caging young trees from deer damage, and ongoing efforts to remove English ivy from large native trees. In April it is hoped that Fairfax County Supervisors will transfer this property from the Fairfax County school property list to the Fairfax County Park Authority. The Park Authority probably already knows that the park has more than its share of *Ailanthus altissima* - tree-of-heaven to deal with there.