

**Fairfax County Tree Commission**  
**Electronic Meeting Format**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, June 17, 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 7:03 p.m. on June 17, 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 Healy, Commissioner Vickers seconds, no opposition, 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 Healy, Commissioner Sutor seconds, no opposition, 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 Healy, Commissioner Frank seconds, no opposition, motion carries.***

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**PRESENT:**

Catherine Ledec, Chair Mt. Vernon District – Alexandria, 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  
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  
Cindy Speas, At-Large, Falls Church VA

**ABSENT:**

Jim McGlone, Vice-Chair, VA Dept. of Forestry-Franconia, VA  
Karen Campblin, Sully District, Fairfax, VA  
Jerry Peters, NV Soil & Water Conservation District, Great Falls, VA

**OTHERS:**

Brian Keightley, Urban Forest Management Division – Fairfax Station, VA  
Tiffany Thrasher, Urban Forest Management Division -Culpeper, VA  
Hugh Whitehead, Urban Forest Management Division, Lovettsville, VA

**GUESTS:**

None.

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**Public Comment:**

None.

**Approval of May Minutes**

Discussion regarding May meeting minutes, as amended.

***Commissioner Leslie motion to approve May meeting minutes, Commissioner Holland seconds, no opposition, minutes approved.***

*Note: May 2021 meeting recording indicated that Commissioner Vickers was not present.*

**Electronic Meetings post State of Emergency**

Brian Keightley presents the guidance from the County and General Assembly for Public Meetings and conference room reservation conflicts with FCHD COVID-19 efforts.

**Welcome New Commissioner**

Welcoming new Commissioner, Cindy Speas, At-Large.

**Preparation for Annual Report**

Commissioners discuss their progress on the Tree Commissions' Annual Report.

Discussion on what the working schedule will look like (i.e. due dates., etc.).

Discussion on how important the role of the Community of Practice session notes are going to be in the Annual Report.

Discussion on where to include the deviation technical bulletin in the report.

**Friends of Trees & Tree Preservation & Planting Awards**

Friends of Trees-Seeking nominations for awards. UFMD will post 2021 nomination form to webpage. Nominations for Friends of Trees will be due July 31.

Tree Preservation & Planting Awards which is combined with the Land Conservation awards and they are TBD. Commissioners to gather information and potential nominations in their districts.

Discussion on how to put out our awards-presentations, videos, etc.

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**Green Initiatives 5a-Letter Report**

Currently the data is not complete. Including a brief summary and also to state that the Green Initiatives will be incorporated in the Tree Commission annual report in the fall. What to include as ‘asks’ in the letter.

***Commissioner Vickers makes motion to approve letter with suggestions and changes as discussed, Commissioner Speas seconds, no opposition motion carries***

**Community of Practice-Next Steps**

Compile minutes and matrix to distribute to members. Discussion on engaging with an outside facilitator to help Community of Practice moving forward.

**UFMD Directors Report-Brian Keightley**

- ❖ Uptick in residential infill lot permits, decrease in Site Plan. UFMD staff working hard to meet deadlines for citizens reviewing residential plans and permits.
- ❖ Retirements of branch chief, urban forester II positions in Forest Conservation.
- ❖ Todd Nelson, new Forest Conservation Branch Chief.
- ❖ Casey Tree’s contract update.
- ❖ Spotted Lantern Fly update.
- ❖ Employees beginning to go back into the office in September with guidance from Co. Exec. Hill.
- ❖ OneFairfax Policy-All must complete acknowledgement.

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**Commissioner Activities**

*Commissioner Burke*

- ❖ Updates on new ecologist position being filled in FCPA by Dave Lawler.
- ❖ Final draft for western area parks report. Northern area parks report in progress.
- ❖ Collab with UFMD on how to manage tree of heaven and potential Spotted Lantern Fly in County parks

*Commissioner Sutor*

- ❖ Fairfax Food Council event on June 22, 2021 @ 7pm event-Pest Management Talk by Willie Wood
- ❖ Gum Springs tree plantings

*Chairwoman Ledec*

- ❖ 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Mt Vernon Environmental Expo-Fort Hunt Park

**Announcements**

None.

**Adjournment**

853pm