

**Fairfax County Tree Commission  
Electronic Meeting Format  
Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, July 15, 2021**

**PRESENT:**

Catherine Ledec, Chair Mt. Vernon District  
Jeanne Kadet, Braddock District  
Robert Vickers, Dranesville District  
Bret Leslie, Hunter Mill District  
Kevin Holland, Mason District  
Laura Beaty, Providence District  
Rick Healy, Environmental Quality Advisory Council  
Cory Suter, Springfield District  
John Burke, Fairfax County Park Authority,  
Brenda Frank, VA Cooperative Extension, Mclean, VA  
Cindy Speas, At-Large, Falls Church VA  
Karen Campblin, Sully District, Fairfax, VA  
Jim McGlone, Vice-Chair, VA Dept. of Forestry-Franconia, VA  
Jerry Peters, NV Soil & Water Conservation District

**ABSENT:**

Jessica Bowser, Lee District, Alexandria, VA

**OTHERS:**

Brian Keightley, Urban Forest Management Division – Fairfax Station, VA

**GUESTS:**

None.

**Fairfax County Tree Commission**  
**Electronic Meeting Format**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, July 15, 2021**

**Call To Order**

Chairwoman Ledec called the monthly meeting of the Fairfax County Tree Commission to order at 7:00 p.m. on July 15, 2021.

**Public Comment:**

None.

**Approval of June Minutes**

Minutes were posted on the Tree Commission website and distributed to the Commissioners at the meeting. Chair Ledec calls for any changes to the meeting minutes. Commissioner Vickers requested clarification for the Green Initiatives portion of the June meeting minutes. Recordings of the minutes are posted on the tree Commission website prior to the next meeting.

***Commissioner Leslie, Commissioner Speas seconds, no opposition, no abstentions, motion carries.***

**Tree Commission Meetings-Post State of Emergency-UPDATE**

Brian Keightley discusses the post state of emergency and the expectations by FOIA to have meetings. Hybrid meetings are not considered an option. The Commission can have electronic meetings during the duration of the County's declaration of the 'State of Emergency' which has not expired. In person meetings there is allowance for remote attendance. Permitted for a member or family member that has a disability or personal matter. Request to attend the meetings using this option must be made to the Chair (copying the Tree Commission Liaison, Brian Keightley). We can make accommodations for a conference call number. Quorum needs to be determined by physical in person attendance. Requirements for meeting recordings to be posted to the County webpage are no longer required. Meetings must be open to the public.

Discussion about the lack of the needed technology to have hybrid meetings (i.e. cameras, microphones, etc.). Chair Ledec emphasized the lack of meeting rooms space in the Fairfax County complex because of COVID response by the Fairfax County Health Department. Commissioner Burke discussed the ease for the Public to be able to attend meetings-either in person or virtual.

**Fairfax County Tree Commission  
Electronic Meeting Format  
Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, July 15, 2021**

***Commissioner McGlone moves to have the Tree Commission to meet in person for the next meeting on September, Commissioner Vickers Seconds, all in favor, non-opposed, no abstentions, motion carries.***

**Discussion-Improving the Land Development Process to Prioritize Trees**

The purpose of the discussion is to talk about process improvements that commission can put forward and make a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors. Commissioner Vickers suggests having tree preservation be a part of the early development process (i.e. Planning). Brian Keightley explains the plan submittal process and what is required before the plan is submitted to the County for review (i.e., utility, tree preservation, architecture, engineering etc.) Recommendation that a conceptual plan and natural resources be approved prior to submittal of the project site plan

***Commissioner Vickers, Commissioner Peters seconds. All in favor, non-opposed, no abstentions, motion carries***

Commissioner Speas brought up Zoning setbacks. If they are larger, groups of trees can be saved. Suggested that a recommendation be made that at the end of the infill project that there is a penalty for taking down any trees that were required in the final approved plan after the project is off bond in an effort to preserve trees.

***Commissioner Speas, Vice Chair McGlone seconds. All in favor, non-opposed, no abstentions, motion carries***

Recommendation to investigate raising fees to reflect appraised value.

***Commissioner Frank, Commissioner Vickers seconds. All in favor, non-opposed, no abstentions, motion carries***

Brian discussed the potential of permitting of trees that was discussed at a legislative committee. Board of Supervisors did not want to preclude anyone from removing any potential risk trees. Are the Ten Year canopy requirements being met with the current land development process?

***Commissioner Leslie, Commissioner Speas seconds. All in favor, non-opposed, no abstentions, motion carries***

**Fairfax County Tree Commission**  
**Electronic Meeting Format**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, July 15, 2021**

Use an equity lens to evaluate tree canopy to better identify priority areas through OneFairfax lens

***Commissioner Leslie, Commissioner Campblin seconds. All in favor, non-opposed, no abstentions, motion carries***

**Annual Report-Chapter Updates**

Distribution of draft by July 18<sup>th</sup>. Chair Ledec asked for Commissioners to look for ‘glaring omissions’ and to report those back to that chapters’ author. Request for appropriate photos of tree plantings-including descriptions and locations would be helpful. Editors are Commissioner Healy & Commissioner Speas.

**Community of Practice-Updates**

Brian Keightley updates the Commission.

Subcommittee of County employees and facilitator for Community of Practice next meeting. Potential County webpage for Community Practice to post-post meeting notes and participants (with approval) for the public.

**UFMD Directors Report-Brian Keightley**

Staff has submitted a legislative proposal for consideration to the County Executive for amending powers of service district act to allow language for the creation of an invasive species service district. This would be an ‘Opt in’ instead of a ‘opt out’ like gypsy moth spraying.

Working on a Committee at VA Tech on a new Urban Natural Resources degree. Degree does not include chemistry, calculus, plant identification.

Urban Tree Planting Standards for the Urban Design Guidelines. The PFM was changed last year to allow alternative standards to the PFM. Trying to incentivize people to use the full PFM urban tree planting standard.

New Urban Foresters. Adam Lipera, Forest Conservation and Christina deMariano, Forest Pest. Urban Forester III, Team Lead vacancy. Todd Nelson, now Branch Chief of Forest Conservation.

Forest Conservation workload discussion-challenges

**Fairfax County Tree Commission**  
**Electronic Meeting Format**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, July 15, 2021**

**Commissioner Activities**

*Commissioner Suter*-took his sheep to visit Nottaway Park to trim grass

*Vice Chairman McGlone*-Data collection on temperatures with heat sensors locally and 9 other communities Fairfax is doing the study with. House Bill Stakeholder group for tree preservation. 4<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Forest Climate Change Atlas was released.

*Commissioner Holland*-ABC 7 News was at Hidden Oaks Nature Center featuring a 100ft poplar that was struck by lightning. Featuring a tree chainsaw artist that turned the tree into art.

*Commissioner Speas*-PlantNovaTrees launching in September

*Commissioner Kadet*-attended a talk at Rockville Science Café about invasive earth worms and the problems they cause.

**Announcements**

None.

**Adjournment**