
CITY OF HYATTSVILLE SHADE TREE BOARD

MINUTES | JANUARY 4, 2023

PRESENT: Taylor Johnson, Gloria Felix-Thompson, Randy Fletcher,
Kathryn Kutzner, Zack Dorner, Millard Smith

ABSENT: Gloria Felix-Thompson,
Keondra Freemyn (resigned from the Tree Board on December 8, 2022)

STAFF: Dawn Taft

VISITOR(s): Danny Schaible (Ward 2 Council member and Tree Board Liaison)

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm.

- 1) The minutes from the December 2022 meeting were approved
- 2) Brief report on approved permits, denials, and illegal removals (Dawn Taft)

TP22065— Approved. Three new permits, two have been approved and one outstanding (being assessed by an outside service). Two new hazards were reported. No Illegal removals.

- 3) Election of Officers
Randy Fletcher was nominated and voted in as Secretary
Gloria Felix-Thompson was nominated and voted in as Vice Chair
G. Taylor Johnson was nominated and voted in as Chair
Terms are for one year. The board is encouraged to elect new officers every two years.
- 4) Audubon Wildlife and Casey Tree updates for Healthy Trees Hyattsville— Dawn Taft
The Audubon Wildlife Habitat Information Session will be held on January 18th at 7:00 pm. This introductory session will inform participants about what the program is all about...native and invasive plants. The AWH will help homeowners design a plan for their gardens using native species. The first 25 residents will receive yard signs to display—paid for by the city. Residents can sign up to have their yards inspected.

Casey Trees will be leading three workshops—the first will be a virtual discussion on January 30th at 7:00 pm. This session is titled “Trees 101.” They will discuss the importance of tree care and how to help trees thrive and survive. The second session is a hands-on workshop, and the third session will be a family day.

Zack pointed out that the descriptions/links on the website calendar are messed up.

Kathryn asked about the city's partnership with Casey Trees. Dawn met the director a few years ago and has been collaborating with and developing and maintaining a relationship with them.

Dawn discussed seeing a tree that fell over and was laying on the sidewalk. After inspection, she noted that the tree lacked adequate root growth because the roots had not been spread out properly before planting.

5) Proposed Revisions to Chapter 112-4.2B

We added a sentence to the end....112-4.2B1. *Tree for tree replacement, meaning a like number of trees removed, a like number of trees replaced by trees that at maturity will approximate the crown size of trees removed (i.e. a large tree for a large tree). As defined in the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR's) Recommend Tree List. This list will be linked in the final document.*

112-5. Official tree species for Hyattsville are those tree species listed in the recommended DNR tree list. Species not contained on this list may only be planted with the written approval of the city arborist.

We then discussed the use of the word "city" versus "municipal." Dawn will clarify the use of the word with Lesley.

Danny mentioned that we are officially a city. All cities and towns are municipalities, but all municipalities are not towns or cities.

Remove "Office" of Municipal Arborist. We need to ask for a recommendation from legal review.

Dawn would like to use municipal arborist....no title, no office, but there are two municipal arborists in the city. Bottom line....and arborist with municipal knowledge, hired by the city.

6) New Business

None

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm

The next meeting will be held on **WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, AT 7:30 PM.**