
CITY OF HYATTSVILLE SHADE TREE BOARD

MINUTES | MARCH 1, 2023

PRESENT: Taylor Johnson, Gloria Felix-Thompson, Randy Fletcher,
Kathryn Kutzner,

ABSENT: Zack Dorner, Millard Smith (*Smitty signed in for the last 10 minutes*)

STAFF: Dawn Taft

VISITOR(s): None

The meeting was called to order at 7:34 pm.

- 1) The minutes from the January 2023 meeting were approved
- 2) Brief report on approved permits, denials, and illegal removals (Dawn Taft)
There were nine permits for January and February. One permit was denied, three were approved, four are outstanding, and one was not applicable. No illegal removals.

Discussion after the permit report: *When a resident wants to remove many trees, should they be required to submit a planting plan for replacement trees? Dawn is wondering about having requirement to have a plan in the case of extensive tree removal. Further discussion for "how many trees slated for removal would require a planting plan?" This is something we can add to the next agenda for discussion.*

Taylor thought it might be useful to have a joint committee meeting with the environment committee. We may consider inviting a representative to one of our next meetings.

Dawn has been working with code compliance to improve the hazard tree list. She is removing the hazard trees from list as they are addressed, which shortens the list. This is helpful to code compliance, so they can see the outstanding hazards that are still on the list. A resident with a hazard tree on their property receives a letter and has 30 days to mitigate. They can ask for an extension, but it will go to court if not addressed.

Taylor asked if it was OK to remove dead branches that are overhanging a property and are a hazard. Dawn said that it is fine to remove the hazardous branches as long as they are dead. If they are alive, removal could harm the tree. Dead branches can be removed.

With the hiring of a new Environmental coordinator (Collin Morrison) the city will be able to send out reminder letters to residents that have legally removed a tree on their property but

have not planted a replacement tree(s). The city was able to send out letters that remind residents that they have 180 days to plant replacement trees.

3) Help Casey Trees event on March 11 – Dawn Taft

Dawn will not be available to attend this event. Casey is doing an informational seminar on tree care planting, pruning, mulching, and watering. Dawn asked if one of the board members could be at Driskell Park from 9:00 am until noon to help answer questions. The next Casey Tree event is on May 6th at 1:30 or 2:00, and is a “family day,” where residents can learn about the importance of trees and how to care for them.

There was a brief discussion about trees planted on Hamilton Street, which is a state road and the trees were planted by the county. Many trees were planted. Dawn has the planting plan and stated that despite how the mulch around the new trees look, everything was planted properly. A fence went up near Hyatt Park, hiding some nice flowers that were planted. Evidently the victory garden has had a lot of theft and damage, and the fence has helped a lot.

Kathryn asked about trees that were planted near the Suffragette Development. At a past meeting, we discussed the trees that were planted under the powerlines and how they will eventually have to come down, or they will interfere with the lines. This issue has been addressed by Dawn, but no one has answered about what can be done. Dawn talked to the city planner and requested that when looking at a planting plan, they also have a powerline map, so they can compare the maps side by side.

Kathryn also followed up on a discussion we had about HAP’s invasive plant removal program. She wanted to know if the program had started up again, and Dawn mentioned that they will know by end of March and will get back to it this spring.

Dawn has gotten to know the DPW landscape architect. They discussed saving trees from vines on private and public land. She has a data base that will track 6 months out and will track invasive species. They can track where specific invasive are for removal. Porcelain berry? Can it be eradicated. Yes. Dawn has been talking with park rangers at MNCPPC about how they are handling invasive species.

There is ARPA funding and Danny’s proposal may be approved.

Dawn is working with “iConsultancy” at University of Maryland. They are producing educational brochures to hand out to apartment buildings, churches and other building owners that may not know about Hyattsville tree ordinances.

Jim Chandler is chairing a business roundtable in the near future, and Dawn will talk about all of this. Trying to hit every opportunity she can.

4) Proposed Revisions to Chapter 112-4.2B

No time to address.

5) New Business

None

The meeting was adjourned at 8:28 pm

The next meeting will be held on **WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5, AT 7:30 PM.**