
CITY OF HYATTSVILLE SHADE TREE BOARD

MINUTES | APRIL 5, 2023

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

ABSENT: Taylor Johnson

STAFF: Dawn Taft

VISITOR(s): Danny Schiable

The meeting was called to order at 7:42 pm.

- 1) The minutes from the March 2023 meeting were approved
- 2) Brief report on approved permits, denials, and illegal removals (Dawn Taft)

13 approved permits, four were outstanding, one not applicable, and there were four illegal removals. Twelve receipts for planting replacement trees have come in. No new hazards were reported this month. *How do we get people to know about tree removal permits? What else can be done to make the public aware of the need for permits?*

Illegal Removals:

- a. **IL23-001 and 002—75.36” and 87.92” Maple Trees.** Two trees were removed illegally and are less than 50’ from the right of way. Randy motioned for a fine, and Gloria seconded the motion. The board voted unanimously for a \$1,000 maximum fine for each tree.
- b. **IL23-003—60” Trees.** The tree looked like it was on the decline, but definitely needed a permit. The board voted unanimously for a \$800 fine. Gloria motioned for a fine, and Zack seconded the motion.
- c. **IL23-004—156” Red Oak.** The tree was covered with Ivy, and in decline, but regardless of the condition required a permit. Randy motioned for a fine and Zack seconded the motion. The board voted unanimously for a \$1,000 fine.

Dawn spoke about how bad weather is impetus for homeowners wanting to remove large trees, since high winds can knock off large limbs or blow over entire trees. People panic and want to remove them after bad weather, even if they are healthy.

Randy mentioned a Tree ordinance in Germany which only allows tree removal during a time that does not interfere with wildlife that may live in the trees. Spring is an important time for birds and other wildlife that may be giving birth to new life. Something to think about....

3) Wish all a Happy Passover and Happy Easter

4) Invasive/common pest info sheet – Randy

Randy thought it would be a good idea to provide a PDF identifying common pests that harm trees and shrubs in our area. The Lanternfly, emerald green ash borer, gypsy moth, leaf miner, and myrtle scale are a few examples. The PDF could include photos of the insect, a brief description of it at various stages of growth, how to properly identify, and what can be done to try and eradicate the insect before it does damage. Dawn thought that the city website could point to other websites that address these concerns for our county. It's definitely something to consider tackling once the ordinance is fleshed out.

5) Revised meeting time to 7-8:30 to allow for work on revisions of ordinance

Let's focus on working on the draft revisions and getting them done. Randy suggested focusing only on the revisions for the next meeting, and Gloria thought we should expand it to the next three meetings. Zachary motioned to meet from 7:00-8:30 for the next three meetings, and Randy seconded the motion. All present agreed. Dawn will put the permit report and announcements in the agendas.

Dawn just announced 32K grant that was approved.

Gloria read the announcements on the agenda.

Announcements: Contact Dawn Taft or see web site for more details

May 6th Casey Tree Family Day all things trees – 1:30 at Driskell Park

April 15th Invasive Plant Removals – Driskell Park 10-2

April 18th Planting and Clean up at Deitz park 9 am...group of volunteers to help

April 24th Arbor Day- Gonzaga High School will be planting trees,
mulching paths at Driskell Park

6) Proposed revisions to Chapter 112

No time to discuss.

7) New Business

None.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 pm

The next meeting will be held on **WEDNESDAY, MAY 3, AT 7:00 PM.**

New 7:00 Start time for the May, June, AND July meetings. Let's wrap up the revisions.