

City of Hyattsville Tree Board Meeting Minutes

Friday 7 August 2020

Zoom Meeting
APPROVED 9/11/20

Present: Luebke, Smith, Felix-Thompson, Fletcher, Immordino, Freemyn, Johnson

Absent: none

Staff: Riddle, Taft

Visitor: Jim Groves

The meeting was called to order at 1:56 pm.

The minutes from July meeting were approved

The following outstanding permits were discussed: 7 tree permits since meeting, five were approved, two under review that will likely be approved. Nine trees reported by code compliance that need trim or removal

Johnson proposed: Proposal to add to 112-4.2b

Applicants for permit to remove a tree may use a pre-planted replacement tree of similar size, species quality, and shade potential to count toward the required replacement or permitted removal tree if the tree has been registered with the Tree Board within ten years prior to the tree removal. At time of application for removal, the designated preplanted tree will be inspected to ensure it is still alive, healthy, and structurally sound as well as to verify that it satisfies the requirement for similar species quality and shade potential. No credits shall be allowed for a pre-planted tree that is dead, in significant decline, or structurally unsound.

General approval of the idea. Lesley Riddle would like to examine how it would be implemented and if we have city staff to make it possible. General approval of the idea, we want to make sure it can be implemented and how it would be handled administratively.

Immordino proposed:

Propose to simplify the code of 112.2b, definition of trees worthy of preservation to include any tree, public or private, that measures 24 inches in circumference at 4.5 feet above the ground or measures 7 5/8 inches or more DBH require a permit. 112-2c shall remain unchanged.

Riddle supported, we need to increase importance of smaller trees, it is warranted. Wording may need to be revised, especially to include technical language. **Unanimous approval.**

We discussed the code, 112-3 will be looked at by staff. 112-4 A change to reflect the 24” circumference,

The board should look at 112.4-1, 112.4-2, and 112.4-5 for possible revisions

Heritage Tree – to celebrate the 135th anniversary of the city. application for folks, board then go look at, DC heritage trees are greater than 100” in circumference. City could put it up on the website, then the members of the board inspect for approval. If trees could talk, what your tree say? Give a little history of events the tree has “attended.” Heritage Tree is not a technical arborist’s term and we can define it as we wish.

New Business: Lesley Riddle explained that two trees were cut in Magruder Park, half of it is owned by MNCPPC, they will remove a tree if they think is hazardous. They have a record of being very careful and thoughtful about why they cut a tree. They could be storm damage, could look healthy but have disease or be completely hollow. They will do a conservation cut to leave the trunk up for woodpeckers and other inhabitants. The city ordinance has no jurisdiction here.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:01

The next meeting will be 4 September at 1:30 pm.