

City of Hyattsville Tree Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday 1 April 2021

Zoom Meeting

Approved May 7, 2021

Present: Millard Smith, Gloria Felix-Thompson, Randy Fletcher, Keondra Freemyn, Taylor Johnson

Absent: none

Staff: Dawn Taft

Visitor: Kade Freemyn

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 pm.

The minutes from March meeting were approved.

The following outstanding permits were discussed: Total of 8 permits this month, five were approved, one we are asking for a third party assessment of a sweet gum that looks healthy, one that didn't need a permit, and one just came in-hasn't been assessed yet.

Prince George's County real estate addendum – Dawn has followed up with the PGCAR real estate board, but the process has been slow and we don't have any progress yet.

Fines: Illegal Ill-21-001 photos show the tree was cut badly, measurement is 58", so it does qualify for preservation. Tree did show evidence of decline, but it was not dead. For a tree to survive, it can lose only 1/3 of its canopy at a given time. This tree has been completely topped. Fine of \$750 according to the guidelines of the ordinance is approved.

Ill-21-002 multiple trees cut to install a retaining wall. There were large trees cut without a permit. Trees are now gone, so we cannot measure. Ordinance says we fine at the maximum when we cannot tell. Dawn has reached out to the Condo association to find out what the size of the trees was. We will put aside discussion on this until next meeting.

Communication of the ordinance to the city residents has been through the list serve. There will also be a flyer mailed out to all residents. We are also considering changing the ordinance, so perhaps it would be better to wait until that is approved before mailing flyer.

Heritage trees marketing and so forth. Gloria has emailed everyone in HHPA and to Mr. Peabody at the middle school who will send it out. Plaque update-there was a suggestion of adding the species to each plaque, but if we get ten of the same, the cost is less and we could get 12 for that same total cost.

The objective of the Heritage Tree Program was to get people looking at their trees and understanding their life span and importance. Therefore, plaques will be awarded to those to residents that apply for and qualify for a "Heritage Tree".

New Business: April 10, English and Spanish versions on Anacostia Watershed Society walk that examines animal and plant life along the waterfront. Limited to 25 people per group.

City will be planting another 30 trees and 13 witch hazel and holly berry bushes along for Arbor Day. Looking for volunteers to help on Friday 30th-Arbor Day.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30

The next meeting will be 7 May at 1:30