

City of Hyattsville Tree Board Meeting Minutes

Friday 4 June 2021

Zoom Meeting

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

Staff: Dawn Taft

Visitors: Zachary Droner and Mike Schmidl

The meeting was called to order at 1:33 pm.

1. **Minutes.** Millard Smith motioned to pass the May minutes and Randy Fletcher seconded.
The minutes from the May meeting were approved.
2. **Remarks.** Lesley Riddle was absent from Meeting so there were no remarks.
3. **Permits.** Since May, 8 permits out of 8 have been approved. There is still a huge decline of white oaks. White oak is the Maryland state tree with a deep tap root. It is sensitive to climate change and 60 percent of trees we've lost in past couple years are white oaks. It could also be age related. Urban issues such as compacted roots, have affected this decline. Dawn will send the report on white oaks from UMD. Wet springs and hot dry summer stresses the white oak. Swamp whites can handle more inundation with water. Black Tupelo/Nyssa sylvatica is also a great tree that can handle clay soils.
4. **Heritage Tree Awards.** On the 26th of May, Dan Peabody, Dawn Taft, Taylor Johnson, and Randy Fletcher applauded Ari and Leo Casalini, the winners of the Heritage Tree Student Contest. Ari won first place, and Leo was the runner up. People loved receiving the heritage tree plaques and were very enthusiastic about program. Gloria suggested that we propose to the Hyattsville City Council (in September) that they fund this program for the future. Taylor thought it would be cool to plot all of the heritage trees on a map and list the oldest ones. 1812 Willow oak. Information on Champion trees listed in Hyattsville? but no addresses can be given out. 43rd and 44th place...biggest tree in the city cut down and it shaded 4 properties. An Oak.
5. **Watershed Implementation Plan.** The Watershed implementation plan is county and state derived on how to address the impacts of storm water focusing on what can be done to mitigate pollution, sediment, and other storm water issues. Hyattsville will be one of the first municipalities to develop their own plan and is preparing for presentation to city council. Take a look at the proposed document and provide feedback at the July

meeting to allow time for preparing the final draft. Dawn talked about Silva cells, a new innovative way to address storm water, and tree health by allow for roots to grow under sidewalk and providing space for water to help trees to live long lives. It is expensive....\$1-3,000 to put a silva cell in. Big project and new innovation. Price will come down as technology evolves.

6. **New business.** The letter from the Tree Board recommending the rejection of the variance request to remove all the trees on the Clay property was submitted to Hyattsville City Council.

Dawn mentioned that a New link to our zoom meetings will be sent to everyone, and it will be good for multiple meetings. We will be able to see in the invitation when it is sent.

In September, the city will look to sponsor 7 master storm water stewards, through the Anacostia Watershed Society.

In September there will be a class offered on tree care, common misconceptions and how to care for trees. (In English and Spanish)

In October, there will be tree walk with Joe Luebke and it will also be in English and Spanish

In November there will be a Workshop on green housekeeping.
All of these workshops are listed Under tree Education on Hyattsville Website

7. The next tree board meeting is Friday, July 9th at 1:30 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15