
CITY OF HYATTSVILLE SHADE TREE BOARD

MINUTES | MAY 4, 2022

PRESENT: Millard Smith, Randy Fletcher,
Taylor Johnson, Gloria Felix-Thompson

ABSENT: Keondra Freemyn, Zack Dorner,

STAFF: Dawn Taft

VISITOR(s): Ben Simasek (Ward 3 Council member and Tree Board Liaison)
Danny Schaible (Ward 1 Council member)

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 pm.

- 1) The minutes from the April 2022 meeting were approved
- 2) Brief report on approved permits, denials, and illegal removals
(Dawn Taft)— 8 permits approved, two outstanding. There are a lot of older trees with hollow cavities. Dawn is calling in an outside contractor to assess a tree that she thinks should not be removed. The two outstanding permits are awaiting a third-party assessment/revue and we should know in a week or two.

Two illegal removals. Both trees **IL22-004** and **005** are located less than 50' from the public ROW

- a.) **IL22-004—55" Black Walnut.** Large chunks were removed from the trunk of the tree to accommodate new fencing. The tree is now a hazard and must be removed. The board voted unanimously for a \$550 fine
- b.) **IL22-005—60" Pear Tree.** The entire crown was removed from this healthy pear tree. The tree will ultimately die from the damage inflicted upon it. The board voted unanimously for a \$800 fine

The board discussed ramping up tree education. We have all noticed and appreciate the articles and flyers that have been distributed by the city.

We discussed English Ivy removal.

Ivy will kill trees eventually, and we discussed creating an ordinance against allowing ivy to grow on trees. Educate people to clean up ivy. Danny likes the idea, but we need to make sure "our house is in order" before we implement a law.....remove existing ivy on our city trees.

The Hyattsville Environmental Committee seek to remove ivy from trees. CCAN (Chesapeake Climate Action Network). HAP (Hyattsville Aging in Place) is looking for help to remove English Ivy. We discussed creating a map/legacy record to help track whether trees have been cleared of ivy. It would be helpful to create this initiative.

Dawn talked about The *Thriving Earth Exchange*, which is a group that supports volunteer scientists. Working with them on storm water education.

- 3) Trees of Hyattsville video—When we closed the meeting, those who chose to remain on zoom watched this video, created by the talented city staff.
- 4) DPW Open House May—celebrating on May 21 from 11:00 - 3:00. There will be building tours, cool and fun activities for kids, acting skit and someone talking about mosquitos, DNR tree care, rain rebate check, assessing yards for national wildlife, (plan for wildlife habitat and help establish so you can become certified as a wild life habitat home. Native plants/trees/pollinators. Offered for free. There will be DPW video, and food trucks of some kind of food. The open house will be held at 4633 Arundel Place.
- 5) Proposed revisions to Chapter 112 Urban Forest—we didn't have time to continue our discussions on Chapter 112.
- 6) New Business— none

The meeting was adjourned at 8:18 pm. Those who chose to remain on zoom watched the tree video: *Trees, the Lungs of our Community*.

The next meeting will be held on **WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1, AT 7:30 PM.**