

ARBORETUM COMMITTEE MINUTES

Wednesday, Jan 19, 2023, 7-9 pm, Town Hall

Attending: committee members -- Sean Conlan, Adam Darkins, Elizabeth Glidden-Boyle, Charlie Andrews, Jim Sullivan; Arborist – Phil Normandy; Council Liaison -- Gerilee Bennett; Residents -- Chris Keller, Chau

Executive Summary: The January 2023 Arboretum Committee meeting addressed the following: resident issues, 2022 MD DNR tree report (Phil N.), tree protection language, the Waverly streetscape project, a climate change white paper and the invasive vines pilot. The committee is going to assemble a small working group to integrate tree protection language from Parks, the CAP and other sources into a document that can be provided along with building permits. We identified a number of educational opportunities around invasives and climate change as subjects for upcoming Bugle articles. We are pursuing a complete evaluation of the invasives vine pilot project before requesting additional treatments. The next schedule Arboretum Committee meeting is on Wed Feb 15, 7p at Town Hall.

Topic	Action Item
November 2022 minutes approved unanimously.	Sean to send out the January minutes
<p>Resident issues:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Barry Liden suggested that Garrett Park could apply to become a “Tree City” (arborday.org). We looked at the application and the requirements could all be easily met but couldn’t be done “unilaterally” by the committee as they require ordinance changes and a proclamation from the mayor. Many local towns including Kensington and Takoma Park are tree cities. 2. Richard & Anne Cavanaugh asked is the town had any plans to eradicate the invasive Italian Arum around town and Gerilee forwarded it to the committee. Since it isn’t an invasive that impacts trees, this probably isn’t something we can deal with 3. Chau Nguyen-Minh presented two issues concerning town trees near 4600 Oxford: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Several trees (a Sassafrass grove, an invasive maple and a pin oak) were removed from a town right of way. Phil confirmed that these were removed intentionally due to health or because they are invasive. Chau asked about chemical run off from other yards impacting trees. Phil hasn’t seen issues so far. 	<p>Sean will contact Barry to get his take on the benefits of becoming a “tree city”.</p> <p>Gerilee will loop back with the Cavanaugh’s.</p> <p>Sean will look into starting an invasives article series(?) for the Bugle. Perhaps starting with Italian Arum and including some of the useful information the Cavanaugh’s provided.</p> <p>Phil will keep an eye on the other trees near 4600 Oxford and look for issues with foliage.</p> <p>Sean will see about writing a Bugle article on county regs</p>

<p>b. She asked if an asphalt parking surface was negatively impacting her trees and Phil doesn't think so. Most healthy trees can extend roots below asphalt.</p>	<p>concerning weed&feed products.</p> <p>Sean to copy minutes to Chau.</p> <p>Sean to look into accommodations for future meetings. Chau requested a microphone</p>
<p>Phil presented on several items:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. He has compiled a summary report of plantings, pruning and removals for the Maryland DNR. 2022 was a very productive year with 50% of town pruning complete accounting for 10% of town trees. 2. Our tree companies have been recertified: Empire and Bartlett (and SavATree) 3. A contract to prune Strathmore trees to town specifications is awaiting approval of the MOU with SHA (see below) 4. Phil received tree protection language from Parks and shared with the committee. 5. The tree database and gis data have been updated. Charlie generated a list of plantings and tree removals as a pilot for generating regular statistics on tree health; keeping in mind tree removals only go back to 2019 	<p>Phil will share the DNR report with the committee by email</p> <p>Phil and Charlie will consider adding column(s) to the tree database that better encode reasons for tree removals.</p> <p>Phil is going to ask the county for their tree protection language which might be very similar to what Parks provided.</p> <p>Sean is going to put together a small working group to integrate all of the different tree protection language we've gathered.</p>
<p>The MOU with SHA about tree trimming along Strathmore was submitted by Barbara on 12/21/2022 and she will check with them mid-February. These often take 3-6 months</p>	
<p>Two developments were reported on the redesign of the Waverly streetscape:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. At the last town council meeting, the RFP for the sidewalk was put on hold while the town considers this project 2. Lizzie G-B attended a POSCO meeting to get their perspective on the Waverly redesign. Overall, she didn't feel that POSCO was the right "home" for the project, especially in light of all the projects that they have in their queue 	<p>Lizzie is going to contact Mayor Welch to arrange a meeting and discuss the Waverly streetscape.</p> <p>Sean to resend the engineer's response to the committee's recommendations (Oct 2022 minutes)</p>
<p>The committee reviewed the climate change whitepaper that Adam wrote and distributed. This is a well-written document lays the rationale behind arboretums, explores</p>	<p><i>Educational outreach and tree health statistics are covered elsewhere</i></p>

<p>climate changes issues wrt urban trees and a sets out 10 policies/changes to consider. In particular, committee members identified 4 areas that could be addressed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Several recommended policies deal with tree selection in the arboretum. Phil N. currently takes features such as heat tolerance and hardiness when selecting trees. There was a question about whether these policies are part of the current CAP. 2. There was a general interest in providing more educational materials to help residents select climate-change resistant trees. Also, reminding people not to use weed and feed products (see above) or reconsidering salt use in winter, to promote the health of soil communities. 3. Keeping more detailed records of tree removals including reasons for tree deaths. Periodically reviewing these statistics to identify trends. 4. There was interest in the proposal to engage with an academic institution that could perform a longitudinal study of the Garrett Park arboretum. <p>It was suggested that we might engage with the Citizens Association and/or GPCAN to host a forum on climate change and the arboretum.</p>	
<p>The invasive vines project was discussed wrt whether the pilot was a success. Chris Keller pointed out that some large vines at the edge of Cambria park do not appear to have been cut/treated. It's also unclear if other sites in town were completed. Compared to other town projects, this one has been more difficult to survey because of the terrain in Cambria park. Without a complete evaluation of the pilot in Cambria and other sites within town, the committee can't make a decision about continuing treatments in 2023.</p>	<p>Phil to contact Chris Mourlas with Residential Reforestation and discuss whether the SOW was completed.</p>
<p>Adam asked that a leaning oak near his driveway be looked at</p>	<p>Phil will check the tree.</p>
<p>Next Meeting February 15</p>	<p>Sean to send out minutes and double check Town Hall reservation</p>

Abbrev.

CAP=Comprehensive Arboretum Plan

POSCO=Parks and Open Spaces Committee

GPCAN=Garrett Park Climate Action Network

SHA=State Highway Administration

MOU=Memorandum of Understanding

SOW=Statement of Work

LUAC=Land Use Advisory Committee