

ARBORETUM COMMITTEE MINUTES

Tuesday, December 5, 2023, 7-9 pm, Penn Place

Attending: committee members -- Sean Conlan, Jim Sullivan, Jane McClintock, Jill Joseph; Town Arborist – Phil Normandy; Resident Chris Keller

Executive Summary: Pruning and removals around town are complete as are Fall plantings. Invasive treatments around town have been completed (second year) and additional removals in the grotto property are planned. The committee will be i) proposing changes to town ordinances (specifically Chapter 7) to remove out-of-date fines for tree damage and ii) drafting regulatory language to replace fines with a bond or similar surety for projects impacting town trees. The committee will ask the town office to revisit the procedure for notifying residents about tree removals associated with town projects (but not routine removals) to give more notice. Next meeting is January 17 at Town Hall.

Topic	Action Item
October minutes approval. Approved, unanimous.	Sean will send out December minutes
No Resident issues	
<p>Updates from the town arborist (Phil Normandy):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fall plantings are done, tagged and entered into the database • Invasive removal was completed by Residential Reforestation <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cambria mop up: honeysuckle, ivy, knotweed and arum 2. Porcelainberry vines on row of tall junipers at train stop 3. On Rokeby cut all honeysuckle bush on train side and sprayed the smaller bushes on the other side of the street. 4. Porcelainberry stems cut and treated on corner of 4507 Clermont Place with Cambria 5. 4515 Strathmore, Clermont side at property line/curb: Japanese knotweed patch next to small weeping tree 6. Dogpark (old tennis courts) foliar on vines . There is a lot of honeysuckle bush in there that needs attention. • Quote for invasive trees (Norway maple) and shrubs in the grotto received from Empire. To start soon. Office will notify town • Yeandle property demolition almost done, they were very careful. Empire is being contacted to remove bamboo • Both pruning and elevations contracts complete • Phil will be completing the list of Arboretum plantings and prunings for the DNR • The fall tree walk went very well this year. Great attendance and lots of good questions 	

<p>Discussed tree protection language pertaining to construction and demolition projects in town. Three components:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Guidance to be distributed with permits. We should model this on existing language from other towns. 2. An ordinance modification was suggested that would make a number of language changes. In particular repealing and replacing section 716 which specifies a \$50 fee for damaging town trees. \$50 is not sufficient. Montgomery county just increased the fee for damage to roadside/canopy trees to \$450-470. 3. Drafting of regulations that would augment/replace fines for damaging a town tree with a bond or similar surety prior to issue of permits. <p>The committee voted unanimously to put this idea forward to the town council at a future date. Draft language provided by Chris Keller and based on previous work by this committee will form the basis of the proposal.</p>	<p>Sean will put together a proposal and talk to Gerilee about the next steps.</p>
<p>Ken Schwartz asked that the Arboretum committee take a more active role in directly informing the town about tree removals through email, notices and other means. This was prompted by the planned removal of a maple as part of the Waverly sidewalk construction project.</p> <p>The committee understands that there are both routine removals and removals that are likely to be controversial. We discussed several examples of trees that evoked a strong response from neighbors and decided that we aren't in the position to decide which trees are "beloved" and which aren't rather, we recommend that the town office:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue to give a 30 day notice, using a sign on the tree, for routine removals. These would be trees that have reached the end of their life, pose a hazard or are otherwise being removed for the health of the arboretum or safety 2. For trees that are impacted a part of town projects, e.g., sidewalk work, construction, etc... We will ask that the town office consider more than the typical 30 day notice. Mechanisms could include emails, notice at the post office or notice on the town website (e.g., projects page). 	<p>Phil will talk to Barbara about procedural changes to announcing tree removals as part of town projects</p>
<p>Malcolm suggested by email that we should be submitting more Bugle articles. One suggestion from this meeting was something on Italian Arum which is easy to spot right now and difficult to eradicate.</p> <p>Next Bugle deadline is December 26. 300 word limit</p>	<p>Any committee member is welcome to submit an article</p>

<p>Held over again from last meeting, tribute trees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ted Pratt’s memorial tree dedication postponed • Gene Swearingen’s family needs to be contacted about possibly dedicating a tree to him 	<p>Sean will contact the town office about both.</p>
<p>Next meeting Jan 17th and the February meeting is scheduled for Feb 21. Adjourn at 9:00p.</p>	<p>Sean will check on town hall availability.</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
