

ARBORETUM COMMITTEE MINUTES

Wednesday, August 16, 2023, 7-9 pm, Penn Place

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

Executive Summary: Phil discussed recent storm damage town trees, which was thankfully wasn’t serious. We are gearing up for the Fall planting cycle which will feature 12-15 new trees. The committee discussed tree selection guidelines and how they can fulfill the educational goals of the arboretum while still featuring native plants that benefit the forest. A tree list will be circulated before the next meeting. Phil is getting ready to draft a statement of work for invasive removal. There was some discussion of what the scope of such removal would be and how to identify areas that need treatment. The next meeting is scheduled for September 13.

Topic	Action Item
April and June minutes approval. Approved, unanimous.	Sean will contact the office again about possibly posting “draft minutes”
Resident issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Japanese maple at 11309 Rokeby (Natalie Grande) has been removed after declining health and needs to be replaced. The two options are: planting another Japanese maple or planting a Redbud (Black Pearl). 	Phil will work on getting the Redbud on the planting list
Arborist report: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Storm damage to town trees was relatively light (no falls) given the severity of storms. There’s a split elm at Clermont place that will be removed and a willow oak that Pepco will hopefully top. • Pool took care of large limb that fell on the volleyball court. • Phil confirmed with Parks that the town can plant in areas where the town ROW overlaps park property. • The temporary WSSC access road by Wells Park has been removed and WSSC will replace a tree that was removed without permission. • Parks is going to remove a Sassafras that’s in decline by the basketball courts. • There is ongoing pruning (mostly the south side of town) • A quote for additional pruning and removals is being sought from Empire. 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phil has been entering a lot of historical data on tree purchases into the tree database. 	
<p>The town license for the ESRI software we use for tree mapping needs renewal. Need to check with town to make sure it is renewed and determine whether there are any modules that are no longer needed. Two website items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> When making large updates to the database, Charlie needs to be able to update the link on the town web page. Phil has suggested we move the tree map to a more prominent place on the town web page 	<p>Charlie will check with town about license.</p> <p>Sean will check with Kayla on the website items.</p>
<p>The committee had an open question/answer time on Phil’s “Consulting Arborist’s process for selecting trees...” document. In previous meetings, some committee members wanted more input on tree selection. Particularly with regards to selecting natives. Phil clarified that his selection of “native” species includes trees that could occur in our area (Maryland, Eastern US) even if there aren’t necessarily found in MoCo. He tries to balance the CAP recommendations with the arboretum’s educational mission. He does take into account non-town trees when considering species that we have too many/few of.</p>	<p>Sean will reach out to committee members who have had specific concerns.</p>
<p>Phil is beginning the process of compiling the Fall planting list. Probably 12-15 trees depending on available spots, inventory and the town crew’s workload. In the Spring planting we planted 26 trees and contracted outside help which worked well.</p>	<p>Phil will send out the tree list</p>
<p>The Fall tree walk will be on Sunday November 5 at 1 pm.</p>	<p>Lizzie will advertise and put up posters.</p>
<p>The committee would like to continue treating invasives in town. Vines but also invasive plants (e.g., knotweed) and shrubs (e.g., bush honeysuckle). Phil needs to draft a statement of work for the contractor to start in the Fall. This would be the second treatment. There was some disagreement about the scope of the problem (e.g., town-wide or just in a few areas). The discussion identified three parameters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Types of invasives – Phil has a list, but this includes vines, knotweed, porcelain berry, etc... Areas of town – Cambria Park, junipers along railroad tracks, dog park(?) Specific trees – Trees that are being smothered or are of particular value to town. 	<p>Phil will draw up statement of work.</p> <p>Everyone will let Phil know about areas of concern around town.</p>

<p>Other business:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barbara Shidler donated to the arboretum, we need to follow up • Charlie Kaylor is leaving the committee; Joanna will be putting out a call for a replacement. • A memorial tree for Gene Swearingen is on hold until Elizabeth can contact his family about their wishes. • A large collection of horticulture books was moved or donated from the town office; the committee would be interested in knowing what happened to them. 	<p>Sean will check with Barbara M. on the donation.</p> <p>Sean will check with the office on the book collection</p>
<p>Next meeting September 13, a week early to accommodate Phil's schedule.</p>	<p>Sean will check on town hall availability.</p> <p>Sean will send out draft minutes.</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