

Tree Commission Meeting Minutes: April 4, 2023

Attendees: Peggy Van Yahres, Donna Shaunesey, Holly Lafferty, Jeff Pacelli, Jeff Aten, Makshya Tolbert,, Jeff Aten, Jean Umiker-Sebeok, Karim Habbab, Tim Padalino, Vicky Metcalf, Rob Mathes, Susan McKinnon, Tyler Miller, James Freas, Kendra Hull, Mollie Murphy

Jeff A: Comments regarding January Minutes (approved)

Brief Summary of Staff Projects:

Urban Forester updated Commissioners on recent events: Developments with urban wood programs (UVA Sawmill and DTM wood) and tree planting status (started April 1 – completed April 26)

Introduction of New Tree Commissioners: Tyler Miller, Susan McKinnon, JD Brown

Presentation: Module 2 – James Freas:

- Cville Plans together has been working with NDS on Code/Ordinance Re-writes since 2020
- NDS plans to have final drafts ready in May 2023

Major Changes in Tree Ordinance via in Module 2:

-Any tree removals over 15” will require a permit. NDS needs to address how public can apply for permits. Also, need to drill down language – most agree we need to be referring to diameter breast height DBH. Permits apply to homeowners as well as land being developed

-Any Trees growing on city property (ROW, etc) will hold a preserved status – Blanket nomination as Street Tree. As such, they cannot be removed, pruned, damaged without permission from the City

-NDS would like examples of relevant work being performed by other Virginia Cities in regards to tree preservation on private property

-NDS would like examples of relevant ordinances specifying consequences for infractions of City Codes/Ordinances

Sub Committees:**Education/Outreach:**

- Redbud tree give-away and info sessions at Earth Day event
- Has generated fliers for circulation at events
- Has created email address/account to for further contact regarding public inquiry and contact with other environmental organizations
- Working to establish tree fund for low-income neighborhoods
- Adopt-a-tree programming

Arbor:

- Social Media Blast for Private/Public Tree Nominations
- Post State of the Forest to Urban Forestry Webpage
- Addition of Nomination Trees to City Map

Codes Comm:

- Primary discussion on Zoning/Ordinance planning and drafting suggestions for the zoning re-writes.
- New focus on what BMPs we want to target in re-writes (assign to members of sub-committee)
- Current plans from Cville Plans Together can be found at:
<http://www.cvilleplanstogether.com/draft-zoning/>

Action Items Before Next Meeting:

- Research BMPs to target
- Prepare to make changes to and vote on Comprehensive Tree List

Meeting Adjourned