



Tuesday, June 09, 2020, 9:00 am

**Green Committee – Minutes**

Online *GoTo-Meeting*

Reading of electronic *GoTo-Meeting* city compliance statement.

Meeting called to order by Holly Chichester, Chair, at 9:05 am.

Green Committee Members present: Holly Chichester, Christien Conniff, David Dorsey, Lisa Durham, Steve Gaske, Carolyn Helfrich, Anne Little, Carl Little, Tom Snoddy, Erik Nelson, and Frank Widic.

- **Introduction** – Guests and new members: None
- **Approve March 10, 2020 Minutes:**
  - Minutes were approved as presented.
- **Public Comments:**
  - None
- **Baseball Stadium Design Update** – Anne Little:
  - Planted 37 trees at the stadium. Planting of the remainder of the trees has been postponed until Fall 2020. Holly Chichester will proceed with the planning of the shrubs for the stadium landscape. The baseball folks are going to install the solar parking lot lights this week. They plan a demonstration of these lights on Saturday, June 20<sup>th</sup>, between 9:30 and noon. People are invited to attend if they want.
- **Pumphouse Project Update:**
  - We did not get the Bank of America grant for this project. Anne Little will attempt another grant proposal.
- **Parks, Recreation and Events Update** – Aaron Simmons:
  - Aaron passed on that they are still working at a half-staff level, so they are just hitting the highest priority items.
- **Tree Fredericksburg Update** – Carl Little:
  - Planted 37 trees at the new baseball stadium. We had planned to plant over 100 trees, but these plans were cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions. However, these 37 trees (Yoshino Cherries and River Birch) had already been dug by the grower, therefore we felt obligated to take them and go ahead and plant them.
  - Planted 24 trees in Idlewild Section 2. Idlewild HOA funded.
  - Planted 173 trees along streets, in parks, and at JM High School.

- In partnership with Friends of the Rappahannock and Bartlett Tree Experts, gave away 1,000 trees on June 6<sup>th</sup>. These were one- and two-gallon container trees; eight native species. The event was held in the JM High School parking lots.
- Due to the somewhat strange weather through the Spring, a number of trees have been late leafing out. We may have lost a number of trees, both recently planted as well as some that have been in the ground prior to last Fall. We are continuing to watch these trees to determine their status.
- On May 21<sup>st</sup> we replanted the flowerpots downtown. Volunteer couples and individuals participated, which allowed social distancing as required.
- **City Updates** – Diane Beyer:
  - None
- **UMW Update** – Holly Chichester:
  - The maintenance personnel are going to be facing some furloughs soon.
  - During the cut-back period of the pandemic, maintenance had a few people offer to come in to deal with the essentials (mowing of primary areas). Now they have most of the crew back.
  - Absence of students has reduced the wear and tear on the landscape and allowed plant recovery.
  - A lot of local residents have been using the campus as a park.
  - The new meadow area in front of the Jepson Science Center is not yet developed as desired.
- **Tree Steward Update** – Christien Conniff:
  - The Tree Stewards will have a meeting via Zoom on June 17th.
  - The training course for new stewards was completed except for one additional pruning session and a tree identification session. These were postponed due to the pandemic.
  - Tree Stewards have been out working on the streets pruning trees.
  - The stewards are using a phone application called *Track it Forward* to log volunteer hours.
- **Friends of the Rappahannock** – Adam Lynch:
  - None
- **Member Comments:**
  - News from Tom Snoddy, VDOF
    - Tom Snoddy has accepted a transfer to Buckingham County and will be leaving in July. His supervisor will be taking over for him in the interim until a permanent replacement is assigned.
  - David Dorsey, Face the River
    - They have been able to have a crew take out some invasive trees along the river in the area where River Rock Outfitters used to be.

- There seems to be a lot more use of the areas along and in the river.
- There has been a lot more of involvement of partners with Face the River.
- There has been some recent positive interaction with EDA.
- They are looking at what are the options for potentially cleaning up some of the low hanging limbs, etc.
- Anne Little,
  - The City had an arrangement with Norfleet where they and Tree Fredericksburg could drop of pruning debris to be ground into mulch. However, Norfleet decided to start charging for drop offs. The City is now seeing if they can work out another arrangement. In the interim we will be dropping off debris at the City Shop as was done before.
- **Upcoming Events:**
  - Tree Giveaway Event – Fall 2020
  - Tree Steward Training – Final Pruning Session – to be scheduled
  - Tree Steward Training – Tree Identification Session – to be scheduled
  - Tree Steward Meeting – Wed, June 21<sup>st</sup> – via Zoom
- **Next Meeting** – Tuesday, July 14, 2020 at 9 am via *GoTo-Meeting*
- Meeting was adjourned at 9:55 am.