



Tuesday, July 14, 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: Diane Beyer, Holly Chichester, Christien Coniff, David Dorsey, Lisa Durham, Carolyn Helfrich, Anne Little, Carl Little, Erik Nelson, and Frank Widic.

- **Introduction** – Guests and new members: None
- **Approve June 09, 2020 Minutes:**
 - Minutes were approved as presented.
- **Public Comments:**
 - None
- **Baseball Stadium Design Update** – Anne Little:
 - Nothing new. Just watering the 37 trees already planted.
 - We need to meet with the baseball representatives to discuss plans for completing the planting in the fall. We don't envision that the planting can be a volunteer event, it will have to be done by contractors due to COVID-19 restrictions.
- **Parks, Recreation and Events Update** – Aaron Simmons (Not Present), Following comment from other members:
 - A Love Scrub was conducted at Hurkamp Park on Sunday, July 12th. About 50 people showed up and helped clean up, mulch, prune, etc. Lunch was provided by Black Lives Matter.
 - There is a tentative plan for a fall Love Scrub event. Daylily Hill by the railroad tracks is under consideration. This will need railroad permission. Also, there is some platform construction scheduled for next year, which might impact this area and any work done there.
 - Diane Beyer suggested that consideration might be given to doing something at the library. Carolyn Helfrich advised that the Rappahannock Valley Garden Club has been involved in previous work at the library. Carolyn Helfrich is going to talk with the Garden Club about being involved if this project is pursued.
 - It was suggested that a list of potential projects be identified and discussed to coordinate and select the best projects for these efforts.
- **Tree Fredericksburg Update** – Carl Little:
 - We are currently watering about 550 trees, flowerpots downtown, flower boxes at Visitor Center and Museum, and flower beds at Hurkamp Park.

- Tree Stewards are out pruning trees along the streets and in the parks.
- One-on-one pruning sessions have been conducted recently to complete training for new Tree Stewards. There are still several individuals that need to complete this part of the training.
- Three tree identification sessions have been conducted for the new Tree Stewards as part of their training.
- **City Updates** – Diane Beyer:
 - There is a meeting today with City and Tree Fredericksburg representatives to discuss tree planting at Riverside Park.
 - The second read of City budget was June 23 and final budget documents are being prepared for department use.
 - The Tree Crew is in the process of taking down dead and failing trees around town. Many are older maples that are failing.
 - All DPW staff is now working together instead of in shifts, other than City Shop, who are still working on shifts one hour apart, so as to maximize social distancing.
 - DPW has been working with Face the River picking up trash and debris that they have collected.
 - Holly asked about outside café/dining areas in parking strips downtown, due to pedestrian foot traffic in and around street tree pits. Advised the barricaded strips are now gone as we are now in Phase 3 of recovery from Covid-19.
- **UMW Update** – Holly Chichester:
 - UMW lost a significant old Beech tree at Brompton due to a storm.
 - UMW recently accomplished a bee swarm rescue at Willard Hall.
 - Bartlett Tree Experts has continued tree maintenance work around the campus.
 - The UMW landscape crew is continuing work.
 - The meadow area in front of Jepson Science Center is “kind of toast” right now. Two cedars have in the meadow area have also died and need to be replaced.
 - UMW has submitted a request for partial reimbursement for treating Ash trees on campus for Emerald Ash Borer.
- **Tree Steward Update** – Christien Conniff (Not Present), Following comments provided by other members:
 - Four new stewards have completed their training and are now qualified to start working on trees in the City.
 - The next tree steward class will probably be year after next. We are going to start requiring people to participate in various Tree Fredericksburg projects prior to being accepted into the class to help ensure that the type of work we do is really something in which they are interested before spending their time going through the course.
 - Frank Widic noted that he had observed that around some trees spraying for weeds had gotten on tree suckers, which could damage the trees. This needs to be avoided.

- **Member Comments:**

- Anne Little – There is still an outstanding grant available from the state. Proposals are due in August. Anne will send out a copy of the RFP to members for suggested projects that might be possible under this grant.
- Anne Little – The Cossey Pond area is an area that might be considered for one of the Love Scrub projects. There is also an old Sycamore tree there that is dying and could possibly be left as a snag for bird nesting. David Dorsey mentioned a tree along the river that might also be used as a snag in the future. Some sort of environmental signage could also be installed to explain the snags, etc.
- Anne Little – Mentioned that we have a significant number of bluebird nest boxes around town in various park areas. These are another area for environmental education.
- Anne Little – As a follow-up to the tree giveaway, we need to have people visit the planting locations to confirm planting. Volunteers are going to be needed to do these surveys.
 - Holly Chichester – Tom Snoddy has departed our area. Holly has invited the Senior Area Forester (Matthew Coleman) from his office to join the committee until Tom is replaced.

- **Upcoming Events:**

- Tree Giveaway Event – Fall 2020, Tentatively planned to be held at James Monroe High School if possible since this site worked very well for the recent giveaway event. 3,000 trees are scheduled to be given away at the fall event. An alternative site for this event is City Shop. We also plan to have about 500 moisture meters to sell to people to check their own trees and plantings. Proper moisture levels are critical to the survival of trees.

- **Next Meeting** –Tuesday, September 8, 2020 at 9 am, tentatively via *GoTo-Meeting*

- Meeting was adjourned at 10:05 am.