



Tuesday, November 10, 2020, 9:00 am

**Green Committee – Minutes**

Online *GoTo-Meeting*

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

Meeting called to order by Holley Chichester, Chair, at 9:00 am.

Green Committee Members Present: Holly Chichester, David Dorsey, Steve Gaske, Carolyn Helfrich, Gary Johnson, Anne Little, Carl Little, Erik Nelson, Jason Ogle, and Frank Widic.

- **Introduction** – Guests and new members: None
- **Approve October 13, 2020 Minutes:**
  - Minutes were approved as presented.
- **Public Comments:**
  - None
- **Baseball Stadium Design Update** – Anne Little:
  - We are still in the process of planting the trees. We planted 37 trees in spring 2020. We are planting 179 trees this fall and will plant the final 33 trees in spring 2021. Required shrubs will also be planted in 2021. The stadium site is starting to look good now. The aim is to try to get to a point where there is very little mowing required.
  - The selection of tree species has been changed some from the original plan to get a better selection of species for this area.
  - The original landscaping plan did not include locations of parking lot lights. Additionally, it was decided to use solar powered lights that each have a solar panel installed on the top of the pole. Therefore, we had to rearrange a number of trees to avoid blocking the lights and the solar panels. The planting this fall should be complete before the end of November.
- **Parks, Recreation and Events Update** – Aaron Simmons:
  - Tree Fredericksburg is going to use some of the one-gallon giveaway trees for replacements in the parks. This is much more economical and should work fine in the parks. This is being done in Old Mill Park, Memorial Park, at the Dog Park, and in the area along Sunken Road where we are replanting following a sewer project.
  - We did have some funds from a grant to use larger trees in select locations.
  - On Saturday, Nov 14<sup>th</sup>, there is going to be another Love Scrub at Hurkamp Park. A lot of bulbs are going to be planted throughout the planting beds. The event will start at 1:00pm.
  - Clean & Green Commission is having a clean-up at Old Mill Park at 10:00am, Saturday, Nov 14<sup>th</sup>, starting at 1:00pm.

- **Tree Fredericksburg Update** – Carl & Anne Little:
  - Replacement Tree Planting – This fall we brought in 100 trees for replacements around the city. Some were funded by a Rappahannock Electric Cooperative grant given to Tree Fredericksburg. Planting of these 100 trees is complete. We were trying to replace as many recently removed trees as possible. Another 100 replacement trees will be planted in spring 2021.
  - Mulching Project – On Saturday, Nov 7<sup>th</sup>, we mulched the area along Sunken Road where the sewer line was replaced. Damian Colby led a group of UMW students in doing this work.
  - Tree Giveaway Event – The Tree Fredericksburg fall 2020 tree giveaway event was held on Saturday, Nov 7<sup>th</sup>, at the Fred Nats stadium. Co-Sponsors for this event were *Friends of the Rappahannock*, *We Plant Trees*, and the *Fredericksburg Tree Stewards*. We also had financial support from a Virginia Department of Forestry grant. The event was extremely successful. We gave away the 3,000 trees we had purchased for this event plus a number of small trees and saplings that Friends of the Rappahannock had left over from other projects of theirs.
  - Wrapping Up the Watering Season – Water bags are being pulled, cleaned, and stored for the winter. Stakes are being removed from older trees that no longer require them. Used stakes that are still in serviceable condition are returned to the City Shop for next season. The tree chain and ArborTie is collected and stored for reuse on future plantings. These fall tasks are almost complete.
  - Downtown Flowerpots – In support of Main Street we have been preparing for replanting the downtown flowerpots for the winter. Again, this year evergreen trees will be planted in the flowerpots and decorated for holiday season. All of the summer flowers are being removed today from the 25 current flowerpots on the streets. The rhizomes from the current cannas are being harvested and returned to our grower to produce cannas for the spring planting. In addition, four additional pots have been added, two at Princess Anne St. / William St, and two at Princess Anne St. / George St. We are also replacing the evergreen trees in the seven flowerpots in Market Square Alley. We are changing out the soil in the alley pots for a new mixture which we hope will work better for these trees.
  - The committee discussed a need for the city to provide more funding for green amenities in the city. This need could possibly be promoted through the Clean & Green Commission to the city. Additional funding is required for city staff, DPW and Parks, to support personnel, supplies, equipment, etc. to accomplish this work. The city should have a dedicated city arborist to manage efforts in this area. Diane Beyer, Director of Public Works, is currently serving as the city arborist in addition to her main duties as director, but this is more than she should be expected to do.
  - The *Garden Club of Virginia* has an online presentation on trees in Virginia. *Tree Fredericksburg* was one of the entities featured in this presentation. Anne Little will send out a link to this presentation.
  - *Tree Fredericksburg* is currently identifying any larger areas left in the city where volunteer group planting can be done. After we have addressed such areas in the near future, we will be transitioning to mostly replacement planting. *Tree Fredericksburg* will also be transitioning to other tree related activities, tree giveaways, invasive plant removal, education, etc.

- Cossey Pond – A conversation is ongoing with Parks & Recreation for potentially, Tree Fredericksburg and Tree Stewards to start maintaining the arboretum area at Cossey Pond. Guy Mussey, Extension Agent in Stafford County, no longer has the funding to support this effort with his Master Gardeners.
- Potential changes to the City of Fredericksburg tree species list – Discussion was postponed to next meeting when Diane Beyer can attend and be involved in the discussion. In a trial of some additional species, Tree Fredericksburg has planted the *Ostrya virginiana* (American Hophornbeam) and *Carpinus caroliniana* (American Hornbeam). So far, these two species are meeting with success. Largely across the city we are trying to replace Red Maples, which were heavily planted along the streets, and do not function well on the city streets.
- **City Updates** – Diane Beyer (Jason Ogle attending for Diane Beyer):
  - The tree crew is continuing the limb up trees along the street to clear delivery trucks, etc.
  - The city crews are still working in the catch-up mode due to the impact of the pandemic as well as some losses of staff.
- **UMW Update** – Holly Chichester:
  - Two weeks are left with students at UMW, then they will be off For Thanksgiving holiday, then virtual classes until Winter Break, 12/19.
  - UMW needs 3-gallon pots for Brompton Oak clones.
  - The Bee Club and Eco Club are still working on various projects.
  - UMW will be making an educational video regarding Emerald Ash Borer on Thursday 11/12, with the help of UMW Eco Club, Bartlett Tree Experts and Tree Stewards. (This was postponed until spring due to inclement weather).
- **Tree Steward Update** – Anne Little for Christien Conniff:
  - The Tree Stewards continue to meet every other month.
  - Getting a lot of help from the stewards as well as some people that are focused on becoming stewards.
  - They have been helping out with other projects such as the tree giveaway.
- **Member Comments/Questions:**
  - David – Trees by Wack building. Poor planting has been corrected. Observations were passed to Diane and Marnie. They in turn inspected the plantings and had them correct the plantings.
- **Upcoming Events:**
  - None
- **Next Meeting** –Tuesday, December 8, 2020 at 9 am, tentatively via *GoTo-Meeting*
- Meeting was adjourned at 9:57 am.