



Tuesday, May 11, 2021, 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 9:00 am.

Green Committee Members Present: Holly Chichester, David Dorsey, Steve Gaske, Carolyn Helfrich, Anne Little, Carl Little, Adam Lynch, Jason Ogle, Michael Roberson, Aaron Simmons, Manij Upadhyay, and Frank Widic.

- **Approve April 13, 2021 Minutes:**
  - Minutes were approved as written.
- **Introduction** – Guest, public attendees, etc.:
  - None
- **Public Comments:**
  - None
- **Parks, Recreation and Events Update** – Aaron Simmons:
  - A *Love Scrub* was conducted on May 7<sup>th</sup>, in Hurkamp Park, at the Train Station, and in the planter boxes by the museum at William St and Princess Anne St.
  - Parks will be doing Emerald Ash Borer treatment on two trees.
- **Tree Fredericksburg Update** –Anne Little:
  - We are talking with Parks about a redesign at Hurkamp Park.
  - We are talking with Habitat for Humanity about projects with them.
  - On April 24<sup>th</sup> we planted 36 white pines and six oaks in Huntington Hills as buffer between the neighborhood and the adjacent cemetery. Volunteers from the neighborhood and some of our Tree Stewards participated in the project.
  - On May 12<sup>th</sup> we are meeting with the contractor for Riverfront Park about planting the trees there in the fall. This will be a joint meeting of the contractor, DPW, and Tree Fredericksburg.
  - Planting of trees at the Fredericksburg Nats stadium is finished, and we are watering them through the summer. We have lost one tree so far.
  - Some of the new street trees are suffering due to their roots being too wet. As we monitor the new trees, if we find this condition, we are leaving a notice on the resident’s door to advise them of the situation and not to water the trees themselves.

- We keep finding mulch volcanoes at the old PNC Bank building on Fall Hill Av, which is not good for the trees. PNC Bank has ceased operation at this facility, so we are trying to find the responsible agency that is handling landscaping there, so we can try to get them to stop over-mulching the city trees.
- **Department of Forestry Update** – Manij Upadhyay, Mattaponi – Area Forester:
  - Provided updates on the following:
    - Emerald Ash Borer treatment program is still open. The deadline for applications is April 12<sup>th</sup>.
    - The Urban and Community Forestry Grant Program application period should open up in June.
    - Reforestation of Timberlands cost share program may be available.
    - The Pine Bark Beetle Prevention Program is available to provide landowners financial incentives for prevention activities.
    - The Riparian Buffer Tax Credit 2020 can provide tax credits to landowners for preservation of riparian forest buffers along waterways.
    - The Virginia Department of Forestry and the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts are partnering to offer teens a new experience: the Virginia Academy of Natural Resources.
- **City Updates** – Jason Ogle
  - The Tree Crew is working on removing dead trees and preparing locations for future planting.
  - The Tree Crew has been very busy lately.
  - Bulk tree chips are in good supply at the city shop for mulching projects. The Tree Crew can deliver chips wherever required for mulching projects.
- **UMW Update** – Holly Chichester:
  - UMW completed four days of graduation ceremonies, including nine ceremonies.
  - UMW is participating in the EAB program.
  - UMW is establishing a sustainability coordinator for UMW. Holly Chichester will chair the search committee and is writing up the job description and requirements.
- **Tree Steward Update** – Anne Little:
  - There was an article in the *Free Lance-Star* on overachievers on Tree Steward volunteer hours.
  - The Stewards started up again giving out tree information at the Farmers Market on the first Saturday of the month. They have had several people asking about planting tracts consisting of several acres. It was suggested that information from the Friends of the Rappahannock be made available regarding possible planting of large tracts.
  - John and Leslie Leahy are working at JMHS on some landscape redesign and planting.
  - The new group of Tree Stewards will be graduating soon.

- We will be giving moisture meters to all of the Tree Stewards so they can use them when they are talking to residents to inform them of the problems with overwatering their trees.
- We have been getting calls from residents about new trees not looking good. The problem often turns out to be the soil is too wet, in which case a tree will wilt very much like when there is a lack of moisture.
- **Member/Guest Comments:**
  - Committee membership/open seats: We have several vacancies currently on the Green Committee. We need to consider adding new people to the committee and also talk with some of the people currently on our committee list to see if they will be participating in the future.
- **Upcoming Events:**
  - None
- **Next Meeting** –Tuesday, June 08, 2021 at 9:00 am, unless otherwise determined, we will still be in the *GoTo-Meeting* format.
- Meeting was adjourned at 9:34 am.