

**CCV Arbor Committee
Minutes 2/24/09
At 4020 Everett Street**

The meeting convened at 8:10 pm. Rachel Ritvo, Chair, and Jule Crider were present.
Absent: Marcia Keppel, Celeste Park, Marty White, and Jack White

Rachel opened the meeting apologizing for the hiatus in committee meetings (last official committee meeting was held in September '08. Family matters prevented her from scheduling meetings. Rachel has attended the two most recent Council meetings and discussed with Lulu Gonella, Councilmember for trees, how to get back on track. Lulu suggested the Committee hold a regular meeting to pull together its concerns regarding current issues facing the town's Right of Way Tree Program (ROW Trees). Lulu expressed an interest in meeting with representatives of the committee on a mutually convenient date after 2/28.

Database: The committee received from the Town Administrator a print out of the "Chevy Chase View Tree Database 2/23/09" and the "Street Tree Exhibit 2/24/09" which is a survey map of the View with the street trees listed in the database mapped on it. These two documents contain a nearly overwhelming wealth of information. As the database represents a major investment of town resources the committee feels it is important to optimize its use. As individuals with no training in natural resource management it struck us a wise to recommend to the Council that a skilled professional be consulted on how to use this database wisely and efficiently and to train the Town Administrator, the Council member for ROW Trees and designated committee members in the use of the database. The committee felt that of the three professionals currently involved in advising us on resource management (the state forester, the maintenance arborist, and the consulting arborist) that this job of developing procedures for the use of the database would most appropriately go to the consulting arborist.

Looking over the CPJ documents several questions arise to the untrained eye. 1. there is no "cell" on the printout that lists the planting date (season/year) 2. there are some scrub trees listed that may or may not be considered appropriate plants for the ROW so spaces may seem filled that are not. 3. Careful scrutiny even by the untrained might find spaces that are appropriate for the next plantings. 4. There is no tabulation of current number of ROW trees nor tabulations by species and possibly by size (a marker of age?).

Master Plan:

"A Master Plan: A Tradition of Trees" was the Arbor Committee's major work of 2008. The "Master Plan" has been posted on the web for community members to read. Neither Jule nor Rachel were aware of any feedback from residents.

Regarding the "CCV Tree Design and Guidelines 1. a long-standing request from the Whites to have the dogwoods removed from their yard and replaced with the traditional maples of Everett Street has not been addressed. Phil Normandy had said that the dogwoods were inappropriate because they were sun-loving dogwood variety. He thought there was a good spot for the dogwoods east of Connecticut Ave. on Saul Rd. but this is not a town road. 2. Rachel raised her own concern that Phil Normandy changed the plan for the 4200 block of Everett from colonnade maples to ornamentals on the north and maples on the south. Rachel has discussed this with several residents on both blocks of Everett who are interested in maintaining the traditional colonnade. Some re-engagement with the Phil Normandy and Lulu Gonella is needed here.

Jule brought out the 24 tasks that must be accomplished each year (some twice per year) to have an orderly process for stewardship of the ROW trees. (Jule had made up this list and shared it with Council during the August work session.) After discussion it was felt making a plan to work out the procedures on a timeline and determine who is responsible for each task should be at least one focus of our meeting with Lulu Gonella. Working this through should also help clarify the role of the consulting arborist which seems to be an area currently very vague. The roles of the state forester and the maintenance arborist are more obvious.

Rachel raised concern that it is still unclear what recommendations the state forester, (name) regarding which maples not to plant and which to plant have not been clarified, written down or researched. It is likely that CCV planted Norway maple last year even though it is deemed an invasive species by many if not all arborists and is on numerous do not plant lists. Rachel's concern is that on the rounds with the state forester word of mouth recommendations are made and that these can be misinterpreted and miscommunicated down the line. Rachel would like to see all such recommendations written down and rechecked either with the state forester or with the town's consulting arborist. Jana Coe had mentioned that the state forester has a list of trees that the state is cautioning against planting as street trees. Jana expected to receive this list from the forester and was to share it with the committee and the councilmember. Of interest given the number of sugar maples in the View, sugar maples of some varieties may be on the list not to be used. When Rachel spoke to Jana this week she thought she had given the information to Marcia but Marcia said she does not have it. Rachel will recheck with Jana.

Ongoing role for the Arbor Committee: The Role, Goals and Responsibilities of the Chevy Chase View Tree Committee (10/2/07) were reviewed. "The goal of the committee is to protect the historic legacy of a well-designed and well-maintained stand of public trees in Chevy Chase View and to promote stewardship of the trees in Chevy Chase View." This will continue to be the major focus of the committee.

Committee Rejuvenation: Rachel expressed concern that a committee is benefited by bringing in "new blood." Rachel had contacted Steve Fox who lives on Connecticut Ave.

and had left his name with Marty White at the picnic. He could not make tonight's meeting but is eager to be added to the committee emails and will join meetings as possible. Jule thought we might be able to have a committee member from each street who would help with outreach and education even if they could not attend every meeting. Names were floated. Outreach calls will be made.

Spring Planting: Rachel reported that Lulu intended to take up planning the spring planting after February 28th. Having Stadler plant the trees seems to work well in the fall and when the number of trees planted is not huge so wholesale prices are not needed.

The next meeting was not set. Rachel will circulate dates to the committee. The meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm.

ROLE, GOALS AND RESPONSIBILITIES
OF THE
CHEVY CHASE VIEW TREE COMMITTEE
Draft 10/2/07

The role of the Chevy Chase View Tree Committee is to provide support from community volunteers to the Chevy Chase View Council and the council-member responsible for the View's trees. The goal of the committee is to protect the historic legacy of a well-designed and well-maintained stand of public trees in Chevy Chase View and to promote stewardship of the trees in Chevy Chase View.

The Committee's responsibilities may include:

- Education of the community regarding, for example,
 - the master plan for Right of Way (ROW) Trees
 - hazardous trees and invasive species
 - environmental benefits of trees
 - other topics as deemed appropriate by the Council
- To provide volunteer support for the council-member responsible for trees and the town arborist for designated tasks e.g.
 - outreach to citizens who have questions about the trees in the ROW
 - survey's or reporting on the condition of trees
 - feedback on planning issues
- Maintain the historical records of CCV's ROW tree program and provide continuity as council members rotate off council
- In collaboration with the council-member responsible for trees the committee can provide liaison to other groups in the county and state who are working to sustain trees in residential neighborhoods.

The council-member responsible for trees and the chair of the CCV Tree committee, with guidance from the Council, will prioritize these responsibilities at any given time.

The CCV Tree Committee will not incur billable time with the town arborist without prior approval of the council-member responsible for trees.