

CCV Tree Committee
Minutes
Meeting 1/10/08
At 4020 Everett Street

The meeting convened at 8 pm. Rachel Ritvo, Chair, and Jule Crider were present.

Absent: Marty and Jack White, Marcia Keppel, Celeste Parks. Bonnie Cochran has resigned from the committee due to family demands.

The minutes of the December meeting had been circulated by email to the entire committee. There having been no changes offered the minutes were accepted.

Master Plan

An outline for a draft of the Master Plan for Chevy Chase View Right of Way Trees had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Jule Crider drew attention to the inclusion in the appendices of the plan a list of “remarkable trees” in Chevy Chase View. She noted that an example of this concept of “remarkable trees” was the Linden Oak on the way to the Grosvenor metro station that is designated with plaques describing the history and protection of this tree during the building of metro. Action plan: Jule will look on the web for information defining what a remarkable tree is using this tree as an example. Rachel will ask Phil Normandy to note such trees in his survey.

The minutes from the Council meeting of 12/19/07 states “The town manages and maintains the public right-of-way in trust for the public.’ The right-of-way includes all of the land between confronting property lines and includes grassy areas in addition to the paved road, curbs, sidewalks, street trees, etc.” Discussion clarified two points. 1. The right-of-way is confusing to many residents so there is a need for further public education on the legal tradition of right-of-way and its value to the public. 2. It is not always clear exactly where the right-of-way begins and ends. Typically trees in the right-of-way are planted in line with the existing trees. However, if there is any doubt the town survey should be consulted. Action plan: include a description of the right-of-way in the master plan.

Jule brought forward interesting vignette’s from her search through the town archives when she was on Council. She described the discussions held regarding placement of trees on dirt streets where residents were parking on the “dirt patches” by the side of the road. How to use these archives in drafting the history section of the master plan was discussed. Jule’s notes may be sufficient or the archives may be retrieved from storage. Decision was postponed.

Critical to completion of the master plan is Phil Normandy completing the street by street design recommendations. Action plan: Rachel will clarify with Phil and

Peter the cost for this and get necessary approval. Rachel will offer to Phil to do the bulk of the writing to keep costs down.

Data Base

The Excel data base developed by the previous Arbor Committee has not been kept up to date. It is not clear what became of the CCV copy of the data base once it passed from Jule Crider to Chandler Wigand. Although Phil Normandy, when working for the town, maintains his own copy of the data base, The Town of Chevy Chase View needs to take ownership of the source document and keep it up to date on the Town's computer. Jule is comfortable working with the Excel program. Jana also has used Excel. Rather than ask for more hours with Phil, it seems reasonable for Jule and Jana to meet with Rachel and put the data base in working order. The committee strongly recommends that Jana, in her role as town administrator, be the ongoing keeper of the source document. Action plan: Rachel will set up a meeting with Jule and Jana.

Alan Beal has been keeping a list of private trees that are taken down for building or due to disease etc. Should Alan's list be included in the data base? Action plan: Rachel will raise this question with Jana, Peter, and the Council.

Jule reported that there had been discussion in the past of the possibility of tagging all the towns trees. The trees would then be identifiable and each trees status more easily tracked. It was decided to keep this issue in mind but not take any action at this time.

Role of State Forester and County Arborist

Does the state forester need to give a permit for removal of town trees? If so is this the responsibility of the town or of Myers and Law to get the appropriate permit? No action plan was made. There was discussion of involving public officials like the state forester and the county arborist in any public education programs we run. Discussion of public education programs was left for a meeting where more members are present.

Spring Planting and Notification Letter

The list from the fall survey by Phil, Peter, and Rachel was examined. There are also three spots to fill where two trees were taken down this fall. No decision was made about prioritizing other plantings. Rather attention turned to drafting a notification letter to be sent as thirty day notice as stipulated by the motion at the December Council meeting. Action Plan: Rachel will type up the notification draft and send it to Jana and Peter for their input.

The next meeting of the committee is set for February 14th at 8 pm at 4020 Everett Street. The meeting adjourned at 9:45.