

CCV Tree Committee  
Minutes  
Meeting 12/6/07  
At 4020 Everett Street

The meeting convened at 8 pm. Peter Roman, Council member for trees, Rachel Ritvo, Chair, Marcia Keppel, Bonny Cochran, Jule Crider, Jack White and Martha White were present.

Introductions were made and the "Roles and Goals" for the committee were circulated and reviewed. Peter Roman described the difficulties faced by a council-member trying to manage the planting and maintenance of the right of ways trees single-handedly. He was clear that the committee could be helpful in educating and developing community interest in our town trees.

Committee members asked questions regarding the definition and history of the right of way (ROW). It became clear that there is minimal public understanding of the legal status of the ROW and uncertainty among committee members as to our ability to explain the ROW and the rights and responsibilities of the town in regard to maintaining trees in the ROW. The committee wants to be sure that in our discussions with residents we are accurate in explaining the ROW. ACTION ITEM: The committee will approach CCV council for a written description of the right of way and the legal explanations of the towns rights and responsibilities.

Peter Roman described to the committee the process by which Phil Normandy was hired this year to be the Chevy Chase View Town Arborist, working on an hourly basis. Jule Crider gave background information on working with Phil Normandy on the major ROW plantings that took place 2003-4. Peter explained that Phil's current job is to advise on planting, take-downs and maintenance of ROW trees. Peter, as council member for trees, determines the amount of time that Phil works for CCV. Myers and Law has been doing the actual tree services. The trees for fall planting were ordered from Stadler's.

Peter left the meeting at this point after thanking the committee members for volunteering.

The committee discussed the importance of education and involvement of the citizens of Chevy Chase View if we are to have a vital ROW tree program. Committee members also expressed interest in promoting the planting of trees on private property. How could the committee and the council promote knowledge of the care of trees --- for example, when is pruning necessary? Jack White expressed his feeling that he appreciates the tall trees in the View. The committee wondered how homeowners could be supported in planting and maintaining trees. Could the committee sponsor some kind of awareness and education program? Would an arborist walk on Arbor Day be a good idea? Marty

White pointed out the value of involving school children in a tree event. ACTION ITEM: The committee will brainstorm by email on how to support citizens who want to do more for their own trees.

The focus returned to the elements needed to support the Council in a vigorous ROW tree program. Rachel stated that the master plan for ROW which has been evident in some of the plantings done as early as 1927 and was used for the major plantings several years ago has never been written down in a form that is comprehensible for the average person to read. Bonny expressed the feeling of the group that the plan needs to be written up. Rachel suggested a draft be made by a subcommittee, shared with the committee, reviewed by Peter and Phil and brought to Council for discussion when ready. ACTION ITEM: Rachel, Jule and Marty will meet in early January make a draft of the plan from the historical record and the current Excel data base. They will try to have it ready for the next meeting of the committee.

Peter had recommended the committee discuss ways to work with citizens who may not initially want a tree planted in the ROW in front of their house in accordance with the plan. Jule offered to provide the committee with information on the sorts of objections residents have raised based on the experience during the major planting several years ago. Rachel pointed out that at a recent council meeting Mr. Podolsky, in discussing an issue of county variances, stressed the importance of having clear guidelines. These guidelines must be supported by specific aims and interests of the community. ACTION ITEM: The committee will brainstorm by email the possible content of guidelines.

Rachel reported that a meeting is being held by the Montgomery County Civic Federation Mon. Dec 10<sup>th</sup> on tree and forestry loss in our county. The county arborist, the DNR urban state forester (Mike Galvin) and several other public forestry officials will speak. ACTION ITEM: Rachel will go and Marty and Jule may go if they can.

The next meetings of the committee were set for January 10 and February 14<sup>th</sup> at 8 pm at 4020 Everett Street. The meeting adjourned at 9:45.