

CCV Tree Committee
Minutes
Meeting 2/14/08
At 4020 Everett Street

The meeting convened at 8:10 pm. Rachel Ritvo, Chair, Marty and Jack White were present.

Absent: Jule Crider, Marcia Keppel, Celeste Parks.

The minutes of the January meeting had been circulated by email to the entire committee. The chair amended the Data Base comments pursuant to Jana Coe's corrections of fact. The minutes were accepted.

Master Plan

An outline for a draft of the Master Plan for Chevy Chase View Right of Way Trees was reviewed. The discussion centered on the variety of designs with each street having historically a distinctive feature e.g. colonnade of Maples on Everett, cherries on Dresden etc. Jack White questioned why a dogwood had replaced a Maple in front of his house breaking up the colonnade. Rachel Ritvo clarified that this might have been done to avoid interference with overhead wires despite its disruption of the longstanding design. Jack raised the question of burying the utility wires in Chevy Chase View. Currently only the cul de sac on Cleveland has buried wires. Although burying wires seems to be a radical and expensive action the committee decided it was not unreasonable to gather information. It was noted that several people remodeling homes have buried the wires to their own homes so there does seem to be interest in the upgrade. Action items: 1. Rachel will explore whether a maple could be restored to this spot. 2. Rachel will learn more about PEPCO trimming and whether this can be supervised to protect the integrity of the trees that are pruned. 3. Jack will explore the feasibility or non-feasibility of burying wires in CCV.

Rachel reported that Phil Normandy has completed a survey of all the town's trees and has updated the Excel database. Phil will provide the committee with his recommendations for each street's design and Rachel and Jule will prepare a master plan draft for the committee to review before presentation to Council. Rachel directed attention to a Department of Interior Preservation Brief (#36) on saving landscapes which is available on the website. The committee will read and study this material for relevance to the master plan and to community education.

Spring Work:

Rachel reported that she will meet with Phil Normandy and Peter Roman on Saturday, February 16th to develop a spring work list. The importance of not letting the wrong trees be taken down was stressed. Rachel informed Marty and Jack about the possibility of tagging all the town's trees. The trees would then be

identifiable and each tree's status more easily tracked. Celeste and Jule had each mentioned this method of keeping track of the town's trees. Action Item: Rachel will ask Celeste and Jule if one of them will gather information on how this is done and whether it can be done by volunteers or requires an expert.

The committee examined the notification of tree work form letter "A Tradition of Trees". It was felt that whenever the master plan allows a homeowner choice of plantings this should be offered. The letter otherwise looked fine.

Community Education and Outreach:

Discussion focused on developing events that will provide useful information to town residents about the ROW trees and stewardship for their own private trees. Rachel pointed out that most of us are aware of our own yard design but do not think explicitly of the design the street trees create within which the individual house designs are embedded. The street tree design has been in place for many decades and Jule's research into the town archives reveals that it was purposeful and elegant. Many residents who are not trained in looking at design are affected by the positive aspects of the design but do not consciously recognize it as a design.

Marty was willing to take responsibility to develop a draft of a program or event that would invite residents to learn more about the trees. She will invite a few residents who are not currently on the committee to participate in planning and execution which could help to expand committee membership. The ideas considered included having Phil Normandy do a walk demonstrating the elements of the master plan for ROW trees and also advising residents who want ideas of private trees they could plant. A second thought was to invite Myers and Law to lead a group through several yards and discuss tree maintenance and pruning.

Marty also wondered if school children could be involved in an activity that would teach them about trees and earn community service hours.

Action item: Marty will work up a plan and budget for an outreach event and present it to the next meeting.

Reporting to Council Rachel pointed out that she will be away the night of the next council meeting. Marty will also be away. Jack offered to attend but it was decided that Rachel could report to Peter Roman when they meet on Saturday and Peter could fill in the Council. The only action needed of Council at this time is to approve merging Phil Normandy's excel data base into the data base on the town's computer.

The next meeting of the committee is proposed for March 27th or April 3rd at 8 pm at 4020 Everett Street. Rachel will poll the committee to see which date is best. The meeting adjourned at 9:45.