

CCV Tree Committee
Minutes
Meeting 5/1/08
At 4020 Everett Street

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

Absent: Jack White and Celeste Park

The minutes of the 4/3/08 meeting were reviewed and accepted without changes.

Report on the April CCV Council meeting: Marcia Keppel and Jule Crider attended the April Council meeting. They presented the Council with the committee's request to host a display table at the CCV annual picnic to inform citizens about trees, the right-of-way (ROW) trees and CCV's program for ROW Trees. The Council was positive toward this plan.

CCV Picnic: Jule Crider proposed that the committee's presentations at the picnic should encompass: 1. the history of CCV's ROW trees, 2. a demonstration of the ROW tree database, 3. presentation of the master plan for the planting of ROW trees. Information on the care of ROW trees by homeowners, such as keeping mulch away from the trunks of the trees, was raised as a fourth topic. With budgeting approval from the picnic organizers or the council member for trees, Phil Normandy could be invited to the picnic to meet CCV residents and to answer questions. The date of the picnic is not known to us. Action item: Rachel will check with Jana Coe regarding the timing for planning such a display at the picnic.

Public Education regarding the ROW: Marcia Keppel had been tasked at the April committee meeting with preparing a brief description/definition of the ROW since conversations with homeowners, and committee members own lack of knowledge, demonstrate that education is needed regarding the concept of the ROW and its legal definition.

Building on the paragraph that is already in the Town of Chevy Chase View handbook section VI page 2 (in *italics*) Marcia presented an additional paragraph:

It is the policy of Chevy Chase View to plant, maintain, protect, and replace right-of-way trees. Chevy Chase View maintains it is in the town's best interest and to the benefit of residents to plant trees at all appropriate planting sites in the right-of-way.

The town manages and maintains the public right-of-way in trust for the public. A right-of-way is a right of passage over a tract of land when a residential subdivision is created. It allows for pedestrian and motor vehicle access. Amenities such as utility poles, fire hydrants, traffic signs, trees, etc., in other

words, things that benefit the public are often installed in the right-of-way. Ownership of the underlying land remains with the homeowner of the abutting property. The right-of-way is 50 feet wide.

The committee agreed to share this definition with the Council and if it is acceptable to the Council have it added to the handbook. The committee would use this information as part of our public education efforts.

Review of Spring Planting: Notices went out well ahead of time. Homeowner concerns have been addressed. Rachel raised the question of pressing council for permission to plant the tree at 2004 Glenrose where one was removed despite homeowner's request to have the space left vacant. The committee it was important in the future to let homeowners know when a tree is taken down that it will be replaced. The committee did not think it was worth pressing on the homeowners at 4004 Glenrose at this time. It was decided to focus on identifying all the vacancies in the town and filling where homeowners are eager for trees before pushing the trees that are now on the Pending List.

The time-line for spring planting was reviewed. Action item: Rachel should write-up the planting time-line and review it with Jana and Peter. A fall planting time-line should also be written up.

Pruning and other maintenance: Marcia raised the question of trimming suckers off of right-of-way trees. Do we leave this to Myers and Law or should someone also train us to do it as we see need? The role of the committee in maintenance is unclear. Action item: Rachel should clarify with Peter and Jana whether the committee has a role in maintenance. The committee wondered how often maintenance to-do lists were developed with Myers and Law or Phil Normandy. Where does this process fit in the yearly time line? When are trees fertilized? Are new trees remulched for several years? How do we keep homeowners from overmulching? Regarding watering Rachel understood that Peter arranges for Myers and Law to water when rainfall is insufficient. How do we keep PEPCO from mangling the trees?

Database: Rachel informed the committee that Jana Coe was arranging for CPJ to give a demonstration of the proposed database. The committee discussed possible alternatives to CPJ, questions of "ownership" of the database and the kinds of tasks the database might be asked to perform.

Jule had looked on the web and found free databases offered by the federal government. If the town did not go with CPJ who would be responsible for setting up the database and maintaining it? Given the cost of the CPJ database could someone be hired for less to do this job with the free database? Rachel pointed out that there was value to the town in having the ROW trees on the same computer with the other survey and building data. The CPJ tool may save the

town some of Alan Beal's time. The committee was concerned about the expense of the CPJ database.

The committee felt the database should serve as a guide to the "to do list". It could have a care plan for each tree, a history of costs per tree, trees that disappear, planting date. Action item: Jule will work on list of concerns and uses for the database.

Master Plan: Rachel and Jule agreed to meet on May 31st to write up a Master Plan. Rachel should contact Jana about getting the archives out of storage to review the history of planting.

The next meeting was set for June 12th at 8 pm. The meeting adjourned at 9:35 pm.