

CCV Arbor Committee  
Minutes 9/11/08  
At 4020 Everett Street

The meeting convened at 8:05 pm. Rachel Ritvo, Chair, Marcia Keppel, Jule Crider were present. Lulu Gonella, council member for trees, and Jana Coe, town manager also attended.

Absent: Celeste Park, Marty White, and Jack White

The minutes of the August meeting were circulated to members before the meeting but not discussed or formally accepted. (They should be brought up for acceptance at the next meeting.)

Rachel introduced Lulu Gonella, newly appointed council person for trees.

Master Plan:

Lulu reported from the council work session on August 25<sup>th</sup> that the council was pleased with the work the committee has accomplished in the past year particularly in drafting “A Master Plan: A Tradition of Trees.” She emphasized that the “The Tradition of Trees” heightened her appreciation for the tradition and history of our neighborhood trees and gave her a new sense of pride in our community. The “Master Plan” will be posted on the web for community members to read. The plan has been edited to contain the conceptual elements and not burden the readership with the administrative elements which are both technical and still a work in progress. In addition to the narrative the council would like to post the Block by Block design to include: unique features, design concepts, and planting plan.

Phil Normandy’s “preferred species list” will not be included in the web posting. Jana Coe mentioned that the state forester has a list of trees that the state is cautioning against planting as street trees. Jana expects to receive this list from the forester and will 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.

Rachel raised concerns about how decisions will be made as to which cultivars will be planted. Rachel expressed concern that whereas the 4200 block of Everett Street had traditionally been planted with a “double colonnade” of large shade maples during Chandler Wiegand’s tenure as council member for trees maples that had been removed from the north side of this block were replaced with small ornamentals such as dogwood. In Rachel’s opinion this gave the block a look of haphazard planting. Jana Coe reported that Chandler’s choices were not haphazard but had been made with considerable thought and study. Jana’s recollection was that he had been motivated by a desire to put shorter trees under the electrical wires. Marcia noted that the choice of ornamentals significantly changes the quality or shade, water run-off absorption as well as the traditional look of the street. Rachel questioned whether residents on the block should help decide whether to return this block to its traditional planting. Lulu expressed the opinion that holding a block meeting was probably cumbersome and beyond the resources the councilmember at

this time. She wondered if the committee wanted to undertake this. Rachel stated that she did not feel the committee was prepared to take this on at this time and that it might open up more controversy than it would resolve. Marty and Jack White, who live on the block under discussion, were not present to share their views at this time.

Jana and Lulu both emphasized that with the effects of drought and the age of our trees Tom Laws and the state forester had found numerous trees that need to be taken down (exact number?) and that replacing these trees will use up the current budget. With more losses expected a larger budget may be needed in the next cycle. Rachel asked if it would be the town's policy to replace all trees removed and to replace them with a tree similar to the one that is removed? Lulu said this was there intention. Jana mentioned that the town would want to check with the forester's list also.

Ongoing role for the Arbor Committee: The Role, Goals and Responsibilities of the Chevy Chase View Tree Committee (10/2/07) were reviewed. (see attached draft). Lulu Gonella commented that she was comfortable going forward with this description of the committee's functions. Rachel commented that the title of the committee needs to be changed to Arbor Committee.

The council member and the town manager explained that the decision was made to buy trees retail from Stadler's nursery. If the tree costs more than \$200 they will provide planting for free and all trees purchased retail have a replacement guarantee. These benefits are felt to outweigh any cost savings from wholesale purchase since only a few replacements would eat-up the savings. Tom Laws will be hired to maintain the trees. Jana reported that he had been in support of having Stadler's plant the trees even though this meant less work for his own company. Jana also informed the committee of the untimely passing of Tom Law's business partner, Mr. Myers, cancer. The council plans to plant a tree in memory of the service Mr. Myers provided to the View. The tree in front of the parsonage is a likely location. Jule, Rachel, and Marcia all expressed their regret at Mr. Myers passing.

The discussion then focused on watering and the degree to which the committee members and homeowners will be involved with the care of newly planted trees. Jule expressed the opinion that without a clear description from a professional arborist of what is required the committee and homeowners could not even assess whether they could do it. Rachel felt that care essential to the survival of the tree should be provided by Tom Laws. If there is care that would be beneficial but not essential she would like to work to involve homeowners in caring for the tree. She felt this could build support for the tree program and appreciation from homeowners for the town's efforts to maintain the tradition of trees. Marcia also felt that it would be difficult to rely solely on volunteers even though this had been attempted back 2003.

The committee members proposed that the committee could work on a more complete draft of the administrative and procedural elements of maintaining the View's ROW Tree program. This was the third and least complete element of "Master Plan: A Tradition of

Trees” as it was submitted to council for comment. Lulu concurred that this would be a useful continuation of the work done.

The Role of Phil Normandy: Lulu Gonella informed the committee that the routine tasks of surveying the town’s trees and recommending removals and pruning will be done with Tom Laws and with the state forester as required by law. It is her hope and intention to call upon Phil Normandy on an as needed basis when questions arise that cannot be handled by Tom Laws. For instance, Tom has found a fungus growing rapidly on a tree on Franklin that requires a chemical treatment that he is not prepared to administer. He recommended calling Phil. Jule was doubtful that Phil does chemical treatments but supported calling him.

Rachel raised the concern that while Tom Laws and Phil Normandy are both certified arborists Tom Laws’ work leads him to largely concentrate tree by tree whereas Phil’s role for Chevy Chase View is to think of the entire “townscape” created by the trees... to see the forest not the individual tree. Rachel urged Lulu to consider a meeting with Phil just to hear him discuss the “preferred tree species list.”

Fall Planting: Jana reported that the 30-day notices have gone out for the fall planting. Take downs have been marked.

CPJ database: Rachel asked what progress had been made with CPJ database. Jana reported that the survey was completed and that there may be more ROW trees than we thought because of variability in where the ROW lies. Rachel raised the question of what kinds of reports we will want from the database. Will the current number of trees be taken as a benchmark for a “no net loss” policy. Jule raised the concern that we have already lost trees and the current number should not be a maximum. Recommending a set of reports can be part of the draft on administrative procedures.

CCV picnic: The committee shared with Lulu Gonella Mary Whites proposed poster/slides for the picnic display on the ROW trees. Lulu suggested there also be a handbill with a tidbit of the Block by Block plan encouraging people to go on the web and look up their own street.

The meeting ended with a brief discussion of Lulu Gonella’s work on the BRAC traffic problems.

The next meeting was not set. Rachel will circulate October dates to the committee. The meeting adjourned at 9:50 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.