

2019 0410 Forestry and Beautification Minutes

Attendees: Georgette Cole, Chair, Audrey Maskery, Deborah Mehlferber, and Cynthia Werts. Joan Mahaffey (Woods Liaison) and Mary Blake also attended.

Cynthia moved to approve the agenda, Audrey seconded. Agenda approved 4/0.

Cynthia moved to approve the minutes from 10 October, 14 November 2018 and 13 March 2019; Deb seconded. No changes were suggested. Approved 4/0.

We briefly reviewed our recent changes to the 2019 Master Plan (draft dated 1 April 2019). We noted McCauley/Washington Grove Lane Park is another area, often unrecognized as a park, which Forestry and Beautification has been working on for many years. At the request of residents on McCauley we are trying to establish additional trees/shrubs to provide more buffering from Washington Grove Lane traffic.

In Section 6.2.1 we decided a summary of the new Plant Replacement Policy did not belong in the Master Plan. It should be maintained in the Town Office and on the web site for easy resident access. Germane to this policy is the replacement of the cluster of bush honeysuckle and grapevine on the edge of Grove Road opposite 113 Grove Avenue. This area has been under consideration for several years as it is in a highly visible location where F&B feels it reflects poorly on the main entry into Town. This was the site of a mulberry tree which collapsed and had to be removed around 2007. At that time the stump was not ground out in order to see if the mulberry would re-sprout. It did not; instead the area was overgrown with bush honeysuckle. Audrey and Deb were recently at Ace Tree Farm selecting trees for spring installation. They found a large, healthy specimen of Kousa Dogwood which will visually replace the existing honeysuckle/grapevine cluster. Audrey and Georgette have talked to the abutting neighbors to let them know what is planned.

Spring planting sites: Audrey and Deb had a very successful trip to Ace Tree Farm. We are buying 7 large specimens including three red oaks, two black gums, one maple and one Kousa dogwood (as mentioned above). Once we know how much the total amount is for Ace trees we will know how much money we have left in this fiscal year for trees from Stadler Nursery. Planting sites will be detailed at our next meeting.

New business: Jay has offered to write an occasional column on plants (beneficial and otherwise) found in Town for the Town Bulletin. This is an excellent idea and once posted on the town web site residents will be able to use links to photos illustrating the text.

Adjourn 9:45 pm. Our next meeting will be Wednesday, May 8.

Submitted by Georgette Cole, F&B Chair