

2019 0911 Forestry and Beautification Minutes DRAFT

Attendees: Georgette Cole, Chair, Audrey Maskery (Council Liaison), Jay Everhart, Deborah Mehlferber, and Cynthia Werts.

The agenda was approved by consensus after adding discussion of F&B Bulletin material.

The minutes from May 8 were reviewed. No changes were suggested. Approved by consensus.

We reviewed the questions sent to us by the Town Council:

A) Should committees have rules/procedures?

We prefer the term guidelines but agree they are desirable.

B) Should the Town Council require committees to adopt any such rules/procedures?

We agreed this was appropriate as long as the Committee could formulate them.

C) Are there specific rules/procedures (including but not limited to the items 1-10 above) that the committees think should be adopted? If so, what are they?

We are still considering these for discussion at our Oct 9 meeting.

The "10 items above" were:

- 1) a statement of purpose
- 2) adoption of bylaws
- 3) minutes
- 4) published agendas
- 5) open meetings (in public places)
- 6) meeting notices in advance
- 7) voting membership criteria
- 8) Town Council liaisons, with defined responsibilities, and not serving as a chair of the committee
- 9) a roll of recognized committees maintained by the Town Clerk
- 10) committees need a chair, with some sort of mechanism for committees to select the chairs

GPS tree mapping was discussed. At issue is the degree of accuracy we can achieve with the currently available GPS mapping apps on our cell phones. There is little point in expending the considerable effort needed to do the mapping if the results are not accurate enough to be used to identify the trees we map. Jay suggested testing the apps by "locating" the one sure point in town: the flagpole in Woodward Park which is at 39.142245 N and 77.172031 W.

On the Bulletin material Jay spoke of various trees he was considering for feature write-up. He wants to do trees we have good photos for. Cynthia offered to send him photos of American Beech trees near her home on Oak Street.

Fall tree planting sites were reviewed. There are several sites where the type of tree to plant has not yet been decided. Jay offered to go around and help evaluate the planting locations. We agreed this would be useful.

Under other business we discussed the dumping of bittersweet clippings in Morgan Park. Two F&B members noticed the clippings this past week while out walking. All dumping of homeowner plant material on Town land is strictly prohibited. This is particularly problematic when the clippings contain seeds or berries of non-native invasive plants like oriental bittersweet. Not only does the material have to be removed, the Town then has to monitor the area for growth of new NNI's. It was agreed a reminder to residents about this hazard should be included in the F&B Bulletin material for October.

Adjourn 9:24 pm. Our next meeting will be Wednesday, October 9.

Submitted by Georgette Cole