

## **Green Team Meeting Minutes**

**July 28, 2022**

Attendees:

Sue Alexander  
Linda Draper  
Valerie Beaudin  
Joan Martin  
Sally Bissell  
Ken Rasmussen  
Terry Klazer  
Paul Lucas

Guest: Brian Stupak MD Forest Service

Meeting came to order at 6:30

Next meeting scheduled for September 22, 2022 at 6:30 pm Pavilions weather permitting; If rain -Town Hall Conference room

### **Upcoming Community Events:**

- Green Team Meeting – August 25
- Paddle & Pathway Pickup – October 1
- BFP garden planting – October 3
- Taste of the Beaches – September 17th

### **Bayfront Park**

- It is recommended that we plant approx. 30 trees/bushes along Bayfront Park boardwalk as our initial project under the Tree City USA program. See further discussion under the Tree City USA section of these minutes.

### **CB Railway Trail**

- No current discussion

### **Signage**

- No current discussion

### **Pollinator Gardens:**

- No current discussion

### **Education and Outreach**

- No current discussion

### **Storm Runoff Mitigation**

- No current discussion

### **Tree City USA**

Brian Stupak, MD Forest Service, spoke to us about the Tree City USA program, provided guidance on how to obtain funding for our projects and walked us through the initial steps of our project to plant approx. 30 trees along the Bayfront boardwalk.

The funding for Tree City projects can only be used for community/town-owned property. There are 3 programs that provide funding for tree projects:

- 1, The Forest Service has a program called Tree Solutions Now which has been funded at \$25Million over a 10 year time frame with a goal of planting 5 million trees in Maryland. They can only count plants/trees that are planted over and above the Forest Service normal plantings. We can apply to this program for funding of our projects.

The Forest Service will help pick the “right tree for the right place”.

2. MD Urban Forestry Council grants tree planting money that is separate from the Tree Solutions Now funds.

3. Dept of Transportation Urban Trees program also provides grants.

Our committee must identify species and size; then provide plants, mulch, stakes. All planting would be done by volunteers. The Forest Service provides funding, approves the type of plants are appropriate for the environment and confirms/verifies the tree maintenance plan submitted by the committee. These funds are provided in advance (versus reimbursing the committee after purchase) and the Forest Service can assist in identifying plant sources.

Calvert County also has a critical area funding program and is quite anxious to spend the money.

Brian recommended we use our \$17K/yr budget for expenses that don't already have funding sources as noted above.

The Forest Service will provide a street survey of our current trees. These are trees that are located in the Public Right of Way, not in the woods or on private property. Brian has taken this as an action item, although it will probably be spring before his team can get to it.

A recommendation was made that at least one Dept of Public Works employee receive training and certification as a Roadside Tree Care Expert. This training is provided by the Dept of Natural Resources. The purpose of this certification would be to have an employee who was knowledgeable in identifying tree care issues and could recommend a course of action where necessary. This would not mean the employee himself is responsible for the actual care and maintenance of the trees, only make recommendations/referrals to appropriate maintenance personnel.

It was also recommended to add a requirement to the Town Landscape Contract that at least one employee of the winning company be a Certified Tree Care Expert.

[Brian suggested we contact Honey Cove when asking for bids on the next landscape contract. They are experienced in landscape and treework]

Forest Service also has program for the gift of trees. Upon receipt of a \$40 donation, the Forest Service will plant a tree in someone's name in our location.

It was recommended that we use our Bayfront Boardwalk project as the initial task for obtaining funding through Brian's programs. The application period for fall planting has passed, so we will have to prepare this for the spring application period. The steps we need to complete are as follows:

1. Complete Forest Service application form (Brian will forward to Melanie)
2. Get volunteers for planting – Boy/Girl Scouts, Green Committee members, Rod N Reel Give Back program.
3. Arrange for watering system – purchase a Slip-on tank sprayer system to attach to DPW ATV.
4. Digging of Holes should be done by borer or Auger
5. Determine how many trees/species/size. Develop maintenance plan
6. Tree order must be in to the Forest Service by mid-September
7. Have town landscaper cut back kudzu in identified area
8. Notify Town Council, allowing us to mitigate any of their concerns.
9. Notify homeowners of project – allay concerns over loss of views.

Melanie and Ken will conduct a walk-through with Brian on Wednesday, Aug 3 at 9:00. If we want to press forward with a fall planting, Brian has some other suggestions for funding that he will present to Melanie and Ken on Wednesday.

It is recommended that the Green Committee develop a long-term plan for tree projects throughout town, based on the results of this initial effort.

### **Other Issues**

### **Other Ongoing Ideas**

- **Work with** Kellams Field Committee to contribute more rain gardens.
- **Jan recommended** town provide location for Community sponsored Agriculture (CSA) produce drop offs. Green Committee supports promoting this effort and other CSA projects.
- **Make eradication** of Japanese Knotweed a priority

- **Install a storage box** at pollinator garden for green team supplies and equipment behind spigot – hose, pails, shovels, bags, etc.
- **Develop Comprehensive Fishing Creek** Trail Maintenance Plan to present to town.
- **Holly Wahl is researching** cost of updating 2 signs on the boardwalk that misidentify bird/otter
- **Ivy Cleanup Door Hangers** – need to identify point of contact for citizens requesting help; mission will be to educate homeowners how and why to remove ivies from trees; possible have team go out and provide one-off lesson on “how to remove”. Sue will continue to work on design of hanger. Public Works can place the hangers once properties are identified.
- **Submit recommendations** for possible use of \$2.9M Covid Relief Funds to be granted to the town:
  - Knotweed removal/restoration
  - B St slope restoration/reinforcement
  - Goats to clear ivies at Bayfront Park
  - Beach replenishment at Bayfront Park
  - Terracing/rebuild of new B St Park Replace town parking lots with pervious materials
  - Purchase lands for future parks.
- **Holly has asked that the committee** create a video for the town website – to highlight the 17<sup>th</sup> St gardens (ex what plants are there, why are natives important). Valerie will set up meeting with Holly to discuss scope/purpose. Melanie, Sue and Sally volunteered to assist this project.
- **Bayfront Park entry** gardens to be created Oct 3
- **Green Team will support Girl Scouts** proposal to install cigarette butt receptacles in town. These receptacles allow the butts to be collected and recycled. Each receptacle costs \$99. **Action Item:** Valerie will check Green Team Budget and take lead on working with scouts to make this happen.
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