

MINUTES
TREE COMMITTEE
September 14, 2022

The Town of Bel Air Tree Committee meeting took place on September 14, 2022, at 4:37 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mike Simini, Chair
Wayne Merkel, Vice Chair
Graham Becker (online)
Frank Lopez (online)
Marion McCarron (online)

IN ATTENDANCE:

Kevin Bianca, Town Commissioner
Rowan Glidden, Senior Planner
Jane Sudbrink, Recording Secretary

I. Administrative Matters

A. Review of the June 8, 2022, Minutes

Mr. Simini called the meeting to order at 4:37 p.m. Ms. McCarron asked that under *Review of the May 11, 2022, Minutes*, third sentence, the words “could not” be changed to “may not.” Mr. Glidden noted that he checked on this discrepancy and the name “Bel Air Academy” applies to both the apartments and the property on Pennsylvania Avenue. Mr. Merkel asked that under *New Business/John Carroll High School*, fourth paragraph, the fifth sentence be removed (i.e., delete “ Mr. Merkel discussed keeping the top wood intact when removing trees.”). He also requested that under *New Business/2. Tracy Waite’s Presentation*, third paragraph, the fourth sentence should be changed to read, “The forest floor *is the duff layer* and removing this floor itself creates erosion.” Mr. Merkel motioned to approve the minutes as amended, and Ms. McCarron seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

II. Old Business

A. 26 N. Hickory Ave. Sycamore

Mr. Glidden said the developer will still be moving forward with the tree removal, but progress on their project is proceeding slowly. It is up to the developer to determine when this tree comes down.

B. Tree City USA

Mr. Merkel said he contacted the forestry service regarding the town’s recognition materials for this award. He was told the town’s reward is in a storage room, and Mr. Merkel offered to pick it up. He reminded the committee that Mr. Glidden must get the application in by December 31 and the reward materials are sent the following March in time for an Arbor Day presentation. Mr. Merkel said that next year the forestry service will pay the National Arbor Day Foundation to mail the materials directly to municipalities. Mr. Glidden said that this is the thirtieth year that Bel Air has received this award and that this year the materials include a desktop plaque in addition to a wall-hanging plaque, a flag (which will be hung once construction on the town hall is completed), and road signs.

III. New Business

A. 221 Linwood Avenue Forest Conservation Plan for Subdivision Project

Mr. Glidden reported on the upcoming development on the Homestead Manor House property. Four lots have been designated for construction, with a fifth lot being the manor house. All properties will face Linwood Avenue. The developer has submitted a forest conservation plan. Mr. Glidden said the plan includes measurements for every tree 10 inches or greater. He noted that there are 10 specimen trees on this property along with champion trees. Mr. Merkel has a map of the trees on this property. He agreed to review it with Mr. Glidden to compare his map with what the developer submitted. Mr. Glidden said some trees will have to come down, but he hopes that 6-7 champion trees can be saved.

B. Tree Inventory List

Mr. Simini handed out the tree list that he sent committee members via email. The following trees were chosen by the forestry board: American Plum, Pawpaw, Cherry Bark Oak (if not available, they will go with White Oak), Silky Dogwood, Persimmon, Bald Cypress, and White Pine. Mr. Simini could not recall the eighth tree but will find out and inform the committee. Mr. Lopez noted that there are a few native white pines near Rocks State Park, but overall, there are not a lot of these trees in Harford County. Mr. Simini said he would like to order 400 trees this year in order to meet the high demand and have more trees after 10 a.m. Mr. Merkel said he gave Mr. Glidden information on certain bags for the seedlings. Mr. Lopez said he would get in touch with a contact in the newspaper business to see if newspaper bags would be available. Members were glad the tree inventory came out so early this year and equally appreciative that the forestry board ordered so early.

C. Major's Oak

Mr. Glidden reported that a licensed tree expert company completed maintenance on the Major's Oak, including cleaning up the limbs, elevating the canopy, and reinforcing the lightning protection.

IV. Adjournment

Mr. Merkel motioned to adjourn the meeting. Ms. McCarron seconded. All in favor. Motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 12.