

MINUTES
TREE COMMITTEE
October 12, 2022

The Town of Bel Air Tree Committee meeting took place on October 12, 2022, at 4:39 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mike Simini, Chair
Frank Lopez (online)
Marion McCarron

IN ATTENDANCE:

Rowan Glidden, Senior Planner
Jane Sudbrink, Recording Secretary

ABSENT:

Graham Becker
Kevin Bianca, Town Commissioner
Wayne Merkel, Vice Chair

I. Administrative Matters

A. Review of the September 14, 2022, Minutes

Mr. Simini called the meeting to order at 4:39 p.m. Mr. Simini asked that a typo be corrected under New Business, section C, second line. The word “lighting” should be changed to “lightning.” Also under New Business, section B, third sentence, Mr. Lopez asked that the word “native” be inserted before “white pines.” He reiterated that native white pines do not fare well in Harford County because of the climate and pests. Ms. McCarron motioned to approve the minutes as amended. Mr. Lopez seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

II. Old Business

A. 26 N. Hickory Ave. Sycamore

Mr. Glidden reported that he met with the developers of the property who are proceeding with their project. They still plan to remove the tree and will let the town know but have not set a date.

III. New Business

Mr. Lopez had contacted Trif Alatzas, editor-in-chief of the Baltimore Sun newspaper, regarding the use of newspaper bags for tree bagging. Mr. Glidden referred to an email from Anna Majka, senior regional marketing manager for the Sun. Ms. Majka indicated that use of the bags is possible and that there are multiple sizes (sizes not specified in email) to choose from. Mr. Glidden said that last year Mr. Merkel acquired 9” x 12” bags and 6” x 9” bags. Mr. Lopez said the bags should be longer to accommodate the tree roots. Referring to the trees that will be ordered, Mr. Lopez said that Cherry Bark Oak and White Oak have long roots. Persimmon has medium roots, Bald Cypress has medium to long roots, and the remainder—American Plum, Pawpaw, and Silky Dogwood—have shorter roots. In particular, the American Plum will need a wider bag because of its wider roots. Mr. Glidden said he

would reach out to Ms. Majka to find out the sizes and quantities of the bags and whether it will be possible to order enough for more than one year.

Mr. Simini said that he attended the forestry board meeting virtually and that he reported on the Linwood Avenue subdivision project and forest conservation plan. He said the only question he received from the board was regarding the time frame for the project. Mr. Glidden said that currently the lots are being marketed to potential builders and, consequently, the time frame is not definitive. He predicted that maybe the project will go forward in the spring.

Mr. Glidden updated the committee on the Homestead-Wakefield Elementary School project. He said that in the next few weeks certain large specimen trees and a few smaller ones will be removed from the site. These trees are dead or dying, or they are endangering nearby properties. The town is working with the school system on the removal of these trees.

Mr. Glidden confirmed that there will be a meeting in November, but not in December. Mr. Glidden said that he would also ensure that Mr. Lopez is on the email list for upcoming meetings.

IV. Adjournment

Ms. McCarron motioned to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Lopez seconded. All in favor. Motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 4:56 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 9.