

**MINUTES**  
**TREE COMMITTEE**  
November 14, 2018

Robert Syphard called the Town of Bel Air Tree Committee meeting to order on Wednesday November 14, 2018 at 4:30 p.m. at the Department of Planning, 705 E. Churchville Road, Bel Air, Maryland.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Mike Simini, Chair  
Frank Lopez  
Marion McCarron  
Wayne Merkel

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Robert Syphard, Senior Planner, Town of Bel Air  
Phil Einhorn, Commissioner  
Kathi Santora, Recording Secretary

**NOT PRESENT:**

Conrad Gagnon  
Rowan Glidden, Vice-Chair

**I. Administrative Matters**

Robert Syphard opened the meeting at 4:43 p.m. Committee members approved the minutes of September 12, 2018.

**II. New Business**

**Tree Plan 2019**

To prepare for next year's Tree Plan, Mr. Syphard stated that he first wanted to address the current year's accomplishments.

These include planning and completion of Arbor Day observations, Tree City USA recognition, planting of trees in the Memorial Grove and on Rockfield Manor properties as well as trimming of the historic Majors Oak.

For 2019, Mr. Syphard stated that there are no major projects pending. The Town will continue to do street tree plantings. In fact, three were done today.

Mr. Syphard was marking trees in Howard Park last week when a resident approached him about the possibility of planting two trees in front of his property. The strip in front of this

resident's house is about 8' wide and can accommodate a large tree such as maple or oak. The resident stated that, in past years, the street was lined with cherry trees, similar to Sargent Cherries. Mr. Syphard agreed to plant two cherry trees, similar to others to be planted across the street.

Mr. Syphard also noted that the fence around the Majors Oak is getting old and may need replacement. This could be a Boy Scout project.

Mr. Syphard noted that the Town and committee has addressed the Emerald Ash Borer issue.

There are trees in the Memorial Grove that will either need removal or trimming. They are American Liberty Elms. An Ash tree along Lee Street was removed. There are now four or five Elms and a Red Maple. The Elms block a good deal of light. However, not all should be removed since this would not be good for the remaining trees that have been growing in shade. The Maple tree is in good shape. Mr. Syphard recommends that the Tree committee members look at these trees and make recommendations.

As far as major projects are concerned, there will be extensive tree planning that will need to be done as the Thomas Street project begins to evolve. However, design plans are not expected to begin for at least a year. Funding details for this project are still pending.

Mr. Lopez stated that a Troop 777 Eagle Scout candidate contacted him, looking for a tree-planting project. Mr. Syphard stated there may be opportunities for such projects when clearing projects behind Ewing Field begin. This is an area where goats have been clearing this year. They will possibly use goats to clear in the Spring of 2019 as well. There are many invasive plants in the area. The area has the potential to be a good Scout project.

Mr. Syphard also added that the planning department has a list of other potential Scout projects. He thinks that the MA & PA Trail connection will also offer sites for tree planting and other Scout projects.

Mr. Syphard expects that there will be a spur from the MA & PA to Kelly Fields at some point in the future. This will also offer a chance for Scout tree projects.

Mr. Syphard asked the committee members to suggest any ideas for major projects in 2019.

Mr. Syphard asked the Committee if more give-a-way trees, perhaps 350, should be ordered for Arbor Day 2019. The Farmers Market board really likes the tree give-a-way. Mr. Lopez stated there are many varieties available. Other give-a-ways such as pencils or rulers could be considered as well.

Mr. Lopez suggested a packet of items that includes a tree, some pollinator seeds, a ruler and/or other tree-related educational items. People could make their own small habitat in the yard. He also suggested that the committee could plan an outdoor backyard habitat

demonstration garden at Rockfield Manor, perhaps in the area of the new Schlehr Pavilion.

Mr. Syphard stated that he will present a draft Tree Plan to the Committee in January for release in February.

Mr. Merkel inquired about fees-in-lieu for the Upper Chesapeake parking lot project. Mr. Syphard confirmed that they may be in excess of \$40,000. Much of this funding will support the Thomas Street project. Mr. Merkel confirmed that the medical center will also be responsible for landscaping around the new lot.

The next Tree Committee meeting will be January 9, 2019.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:19 p.m.

Kathi Santora  
Recording Secretary