

January 12, 2011

The regular meeting of the Tree Committee was held on Wednesday, January 12, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. at the Department of Planning, 705 E. Churchville Road, Bel Air, Maryland.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Rowan Glidden, Vice Chair
Marion McCarron
Frank Lopez

ALSO PRESENT: Bob Syphard, Senior Planner
Wayne Merkel, DNR
Catherine Owsianiecki, Recording Secretary

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the November 10, 2010 meeting were approved.

Project Update

Mr. Syphard stated that the MacPhail Woods project at E. MacPhail Road and Emmorton Road is back on. Mr. Syphard stated that he received a fee-in-lieu check and that the Tree Committee now has about \$15,000.00 to spend on planting plans.

South Main Street Phase II Plan

Mr. Syphard stated that fee-in-lieu funding is available for the second phase of the South Main Street corridor planting plan. Mr. Syphard stated that one person expressed concern about the location of the trees in regard to any future sidewalk improvements. When the project was put together, the State Highway Administration advised that sidewalks would not be placed on the side of the street. Mr. Syphard stated that he will have the State Highway Administration verify that, but he believes that the available planting space will put any trees out of the range of where any sidewalk may be installed. He will also send the plan to surrounding property owners to determine if they have any concerns.

Mr. Syphard stated that this is probably the time to consider the idea of a new gateway sign, although he is not certain from where the Tree Committee will obtain funding. He suggested that a brickwork arch sign, like the sign on Route 24, might be placed in the right of way, as the current sign is rather far back. Ms. McCarron inquired who constructed the other gateway signs. Mr. Syphard stated that the Town had a mason construct the signs at the Dick's Sporting Goods site and at Boulton Street location. He stated that the Town presumably would ask the same mason to construct the sign at South Main Street. Mr. Syphard stated that the wood sign at the Dick's Sporting Goods location was replaced two years ago. Mr. Glidden inquired if there is a fee-in-lieu for art. Mr. Syphard stated that there is and that the Cultural Arts Commission would need to determine whether the sign would be an appropriate art piece to be paid for through the fund.

Mr. Syphard stated that if the members approve of the draft planting plan, he will try to put out a Request for Proposal by late February or early March. Mr. Syphard stated that it is probably an \$8,000.00 project and that he would like to try to obtain a matching grant from the State.

Mr. Syphard stated that Mr. Merkel, Mr. Lopez and he met with representatives from the State Highway Administration and Harford County and came to an agreement regarding the removal of the three zelkova trees in front of 220 S. Main Street. Mr. Syphard stated that the County will remove the three zelkova trees and the Town will replace them with three zelkova trees of matching variety. Mr. Syphard stated that they looked at the zelkova tree in front of the Sheriff's Department and the companion tree closest to the entrance on the south side. Mr. Syphard stated that everyone agreed that both trees should be removed and replaced with one tree. The State Highway Administration will remove the trees, Harford County will grind the stumps and the Town of Bel will provide a replacement. Mr. Syphard stated that the Town might put in a larger tree and place it back from the intersection to keep it away from the utilities. Mr. Syphard stated that these replacements will be coordinated in late March or early April.

Arbor Day

Mr. Syphard stated that he and Mr. Lopez discussed the replacement of the zelkova trees as a possible Arbor Day project, but the second phase of the South Main Street corridor planting, the Main Street plantings and the hands-on planting at Shamrock Park are all possible Arbor Day projects as well. Mr. Syphard stated that the Shamrock Park project may be funded by the Public Works Department. Mr. Syphard stated that the Tree Committee could get some press out of this project perhaps by having Kathi Santora and the *Aegis* cover the planting.

Tree Inventory

Mr. Syphard stated that he is now Acting Director of Planning and may have limited time to complete the tree inventory. Mr. Syphard stated that he may consider using a portion of the fee-in-lieu money to pay a college intern to complete the tree inventory.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

February 9, 2011

The regular meeting of the Tree Committee was held on Wednesday, February 9, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. at the Department of Planning, 705 E. Churchville Road, Bel Air, Maryland.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mike Simini, Chair
 Rowan Glidden, Vice Chair
 Marion McCarron
 Frank Lopez
 Conrad Gagnon

ALSO PRESENT: Bob Syphard, Acting Director of Planning
 Wayne Merkel, DNR
 Catherine Owsianiecki, Recording Secretary

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the January 12, 2011 meeting were approved as amended with the following corrections:

Page 2, First Sentence

Mr. Glidden stated that this sentence should correctly read: "Mr. Glidden inquired if there is a fee-in-lieu for art."

Under the "Members Present" Heading

Ms. McCarron stated that Rowan Glidden, not Frank Lopez, should be correctly identified as Vice Chair.

South Main Street Phase II Plan

Mr. Syphard stated that he sent letters and a copy of the plan reviewed at last month's meeting to the affected property owners on South Main Street. He stated that he has not heard back from anyone. Mr. Syphard stated that he is concerned about Country Village because they had concerns during Phase I and their concerns are probably a little more appropriate for Phase II. He will give Country Village another week or two to respond and then place a call to the

property manager to ensure that the plan was received. Mr. Syphard stated that he has not spoken to anyone from the State Highway Administration yet but he will do that shortly.

Mr. Syphard stated that he sees no reason right now why the Request for Proposal (RFP) cannot be sent out this spring, hopefully in March. Now is the time for the members to make any comments about the species chosen or the basis of the plan. He stated that Mr. Gagnon's suggestion to implement a 3-1 planting design works well and that he is not suggesting any changes to the plan.

Mr. Syphard stated that he will go out to the site when the weather clears to make sure the planting locations are viable. Mr. Glidden advised that Mr. Syphard wait until the snow melts before calling Miss Utility. The only utility issues are storm drains or water lines that may run perpendicular to the roadway but it is always possible that there could be a cable line as well.

Arbor Day

Mr. Syphard stated that the Tree Committee has not yet made a final decision about the Arbor Day project. He stated that the Department of Public Works can help with any trees that are not manageable by hand for the proposed Shamrock Park project. Mr. Syphard stated that there will also likely be two projects on Main Street at the County Building and the Sheriff's Office, but he advised that a contractor will plant those trees; the Shamrock Park project will be hands-on and a good fit for Arbor Day. Mr. Syphard stated that if the Tree Committee does not take on the Shamrock Park project, Public Works will probably do some sort of planting.

Mr. Merkel inquired how many trees would be planted in Shamrock Park. Mr. Syphard stated that one tree will be taken out, and that two or three trees can be planted. Mr. Syphard stated that the spot may be a good place to plant elms or sugar maples.

Mr. Merkel inquired if a date has been set for the planting. Mr. Syphard stated that planting could be done in April or May. Mr. Syphard stated that St. Margaret's School uses the park and facilities beginning in late April, so it may be better to do the planting earlier than May. Mr. Merkel advised that he would be unavailable on the last Friday of April.

Mr. Syphard stated that elms may be available through Home Depot and sugar maples will be readily available. He stated that he is hesitant to go with Moon Nursery because of the large size. Mr. Merkel inquired about the trees already planted in Shamrock Park. Mr. Syphard stated that there is a beech, a crabapple which is coming out, and a Red and Pin Oak along Lee Way. There are also hemlock and holly along the residential side. He stated that the idea of the Shamrock Park project is that the new trees eventually will be nice shade trees. Sugar maples, for

example, will grow up and out. Mr. Syphard stated that he will look for sugar maples and elms for the project.

Annual Elections

Mr. Merkel moved and Ms. McCarron seconded the motion that Mr. Simini be elected Chair of the Tree Committee for 2011.

The motion carried.

Ms. McCarron moved and Mr. Gagnon seconded the motion that Mr. Glidden be elected Vice Chair of the Tree Committee for 2011.

The motion carried.

Asian Longhorned Beetle

Mr. Merkel presented a video on the Asian Longhorned Beetle, what to look for and the detrimental effects the bug is causing. Mr. Merkel stated that in September 2009 he travelled to Worcester, Massachusetts to attend a forum about the Emerald Ash Borer and the Asian Longhorned Beetle and that a DVD was distributed to all who attended. He stated that the Asian Longhorned Beetle came into New York City on pallet materials from Asia in the late 1990s; it appeared in Chicago and was subsequently eradicated, and then it appeared in New Jersey and was eradicated after several years.

Mr. Merkel stated that the Asian Longhorned Beetle appeared in Worcester, Massachusetts in August 2008; however, he read that an exterminator captured an Asian Longhorned Beetle in Worcester in 1997 and never alerted anyone about it. Mr. Merkel stated that Worcester began a massive eradication program, during which 25,000 trees were cut down.

Mr. Merkel distributed materials describing the Asian Longhorned Beetle. He stated that the female is larger than the male; it is shiny black and 1"-1 ½" long. Mr. Merkel stated that the Asian Longhorned Beetle has about 20 white spots on its wings and its antennae are about 3 - 4" long. The larvae live in the tree through the winter and bore 3/8" holes when they emerge as adults. Mr. Merkel stated that maples are the Asian Longhorned Beetle's preferred hosts. He stated that the best hosts are all maples, fox elders, horse chestnut, buckeye, willows and elms. He stated that other good hosts are birch.

Mr. Merkel stated that in 2009 inspectors at the Port of Baltimore found a cousin of the Asian Longhorned Beetle in a shipping container. Mr. Gagnon inquired if the cousin is as destructive as the Asian Longhorned Beetle. Mr. Merkel stated that the Asian Longhorned Beetle has several cousins, some of which are just as destructive.

Mr. Merkel stated that the Asian Longhorned Beetle cannot move very far in one season, so it can be eradicated if action is taken when it is detected.

Mr. Glidden inquired about any weather-related limitations of the Asian Longhorned Beetle. Mr. Merkel stated that it is a hardy insect as it has survived in winter in Chicago.

Mr. Glidden inquired if the Asian Longhorned Beetle has any predators in the U.S. Mr. Merkel stated that birds will feed on them.

After the video presentation, Mr. Syphard inquired if only infected trees were removed from quarantined areas. Mr. Merkel stated that perimeters were set up and all infected trees and all host trees were removed.

Mr. Glidden inquired if the replanted trees were resistant species. Mr. Merkel stated that there are lists of trees that are very good, good, intermediate and questionable hosts. But he advised that other trees, such as oaks, are susceptible.

Mr. Merkel passed around a vial containing an Emerald Ash Borer and stated that there was an infestation in Prince Georges County. He stated that the infestation started in Michigan and moved to Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York and West Virginia as well. Mr. Merkel stated that the Emerald Ash Borer will bore holes the size of BBs, which are flat on one side.

Mr. Gagnon inquired if the infestation can be attributed to firewood. Mr. Merkel stated that the infestation started in a Michigan nursery, which has a main site and two satellite sites. He stated that a nursery in Prince Georges County placed an order for ash trees from a Tennessee nursery and that the Michigan nursery filled the order and also shipped the ash trees to other states as well. Mr. Merkel stated that the infested shipments were tracked through receipts.

Mr. Syphard stated that the Emerald Ash Borer moves from top to bottom, so you need to go up into the canopy to detect an infected tree. Mr. Syphard also advised that a specimen tree in a yard can be inoculated but that is not practical in a large wooded area.

Mr. Gagnon inquired what kind of damage is done by the Asian Longhorned Beetle in Asia. Mr. Syphard stated that a University of Maryland entomologist has reported that the trees in Asia have built up resistance to the native invaders and, in some cases, the bugs do not like the trees there. He stated that Asian trees can be planted in the U.S. and may be unharmed by these insects.

Mr. Glidden inquired about the amount of time between removal and replanting of trees in the Worcester eradication program. Mr. Merkel stated that trees were still being cut down as they were being replaced in some areas.

Project Updates

Mr. Syphard stated that the MacPhail Woods Project is moving forward and this has given the Tree Committee the fee-in-lieu money it needs for South Main, Arbor Day and other projects.

Mr. Syphard stated that several hospital projects are now moving forward. He stated that the project concerning the second parking lot to the south of the main campus will net approximately \$40,000 in fee-in-lieu funds.

Mr. Syphard stated that he looked at the Town of Bel Air sign at the South Main Street Phase II site. He stated that it is a stick and board structure on the hill in front of Country Village Apartments. He stated that any new sign will have to be located on the Country Village property: the Town does not have enough right of way to put up a pedestal brick art sign. He stated that perhaps they can request an easement from Country Village. Mr. Syphard stated that another option for a sign is at the corner of MacPhail Woods.

Mr. Glidden inquired if Mr. Syphard has spoken to the Cultural Arts Commission about the availability for fee-in-lieu money for art. Mr. Syphard stated that he has not spoken to Trish Heidenreich yet but he knows that there is a surplus of fee-in-lieu money that needs to be earmarked.

Mr. Syphard stated that he will use a portion of the fee-in-lieu money to complete the tree inventory.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

March 9, 2011

The regular meeting of the Tree Committee was held on Wednesday, March 9, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. at the Department of Planning, 705 E. Churchville Road, Bel Air, Maryland.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mike Simini, Chair
Rowan Glidden, Vice Chair
Marion McCarron
Conrad Gagnon

ALSO PRESENT: Bob Syphard, Senior Planner
Rob Preston, Town Commissioner
Wayne Merkel, DNR
Catherine Owsianiecki, Recording Secretary

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the February 9, 2011 meeting were approved.

South Main Street Phase II Plan

Mr. Syphard stated that he learned last Friday that a section of South Main Street will be resurfaced, which may put the Phase II project on hold. He stated that he does not have any firm dates, but if the resurfacing takes place in April, Phase II could begin in May or June. Mr. Syphard stated that if the resurfacing turns out to be a long process, Phase II could be a fall project. Mr. Preston inquired how far the resurfacing will extend. Mr. Syphard stated that the resurfacing will extend outside of town, starting at the Linwood Road intersection south.

Regarding the proposed RFP for the project, Mr. Gagnon stated that the warranty period in Section II of the RFP is dated June 1, 2005. Mr. Syphard noted the error stating that the RFP is basically a copy of the Phase I RFP. Ms. McCarron inquired how long the plant material is guaranteed. Mr. Syphard stated that it is usually guaranteed for one year, which is based on the date the contract is signed.

Mr. Glidden inquired if the word "determined" under the Award of Contract heading of in Section I of the RFP is legal terminology. Mr. Glidden stated that "awarded" may be more appropriate terminology. Mr. Syphard stated that it can be changed to "awarded." Mr. Syphard stated that the contract ultimately will be approved by the Town Commissioners. Mr. Glidden stated that "selected" may be better terminology in that case.

Mr. Glidden stated that typically he wouldn't see a specific date in the warranty section. Mr. Syphard stated that the last RFP indicated a specific date because the plantings happened late in the season and enough time was put in to get a full year out of the warranty. Mr. Syphard stated that when the RFP is sent out, it will have a specific planting period and the guarantee date will be based on that period of time.

Arbor Day

Mr. Syphard stated that a sewer line and storm drain run through the center of Shamrock Park and the area selected for the Arbor Day planting. He stated that he spoke with the Public Works Department and the planting spot for Arbor Day will be limited to the corner of the playground area. Mr. Syphard stated that a large tree could be planted so that it will eventually shade the bench in that corner of the active area. He indicated on the park plan the area where a crabapple will be removed, and the line of existing oak trees including an ash. He stated that he would like to plant another oak to continue that line. Mr. Syphard stated that if the Tree Committee agrees to the planting project, two trees may be planted. Mr. Syphard stated that a sugar maple would be

appropriate for the playground planting. Mr. Merkel inquired if any sugar maples are in Shamrock Park. Mr. Syphard stated that the park contains mostly oaks.

Mr. Syphard stated that the plan is to pick up two trees and schedule a date for the planting. Mr. Merkel inquired when the planting date might be. Mr. Syphard stated that he is considering the latter part of April. Mr. Gagnon inquired if the Public Works Department will remove the crabapple. Mr. Syphard stated that Public Works will remove the tree just prior to the scheduled date for the Arbor Day planting.

Tree Inventory

Mr. Syphard stated that he will work on this year's Work Plan and distribute drafts to the members in April. He stated that he wants to focus on completing the Tree Inventory this year. Mr. Syphard stated that he has looked into contracting a tree company such as Bartlett or Davey to work on the inventory. Mr. Syphard stated that there also may be an opportunity to have one or two paid interns from the University of Maryland's Urban Forestry Program work on the inventory. Mr. Syphard stated that he will investigate whether a private company or paid interns would be best based on finances and time constraints.

Mr. Glidden stated that there is a landscape training program at Harford Tech and that may be another avenue for completing the Tree Inventory. Mr. Syphard stated that the problem with using high school students is ensuring that they have enough knowledge to complete the inventory properly. Mr. Glidden stated that it could possibly be a class project. Mr. Syphard stated that it is a possibility but there is a potential liability having volunteers working in the public right-of-way.

Mr. Gagnon inquired if the incoming fee-in-lieu money from Upper Chesapeake is from the new parking lot area. Mr. Syphard stated that it is from the parking lot and it is the last of the fee-in-lieu money that the Town will receive from Upper Chesapeake. He stated that everything on the parent lot and the Cancer Center fall under a previous forest conservation plan. Mr. Syphard stated that Lot G, the property at the West MacPhail Road and Tollgate Road intersection, has already been covered with a forest conservation plan. He stated that only the southernmost end of the hospital property has not been inventoried.

Mr. Glidden inquired if it is proper to use the fee-in-lieu money to pay for the completion of the Tree Inventory. Mr. Syphard stated that it is a proper use because the inventory falls under the category of maintenance and site preparation planning.

Other

Mr. Glidden inquired about the church annexation and the church's ability to meet forest conservation requirements for future development on site. Mr. Syphard stated that there will not be much deforestation in the areas that can be developed. He stated that there are both floodplain and

wetland areas, and those areas, if forested, may be banked. Mr. Syphard stated that the Town most likely will not see much fee-in-lieu money from any development of that property. The vacant Williams Street property is probably the only remaining project left that may result in forest conservation fee-in-lieu funds.

Mr. Syphard stated that redevelopment of existing commercial properties is now subject to forest conservation requirements so theoretically some future projects may have a fee-in-lieu requirement. He stated that most projects will likely be small with the forest conservation requirement limited to the limits of disturbance.

Mr. Glidden inquired if redevelopment of a previously developed area is always subject to forest conservation. Mr. Syphard stated that although nothing in the ordinance references redevelopment of an area that has already been subject to a previous forest conservation plan, it is implied in the ordinance that any redevelopment in that case would be exempt from additional forest conservation requirements.

Mr. Gagnon inquired about the vacant BB&T property on Baltimore Pike and Atwood Road. Mr. Syphard stated that Auto Zone received approval last week. Mr. Syphard stated that AutoZone complied with the recommendations of the Tree Committee and the Appearance and Beautification Committee and modified the planting plan accordingly.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

May 11, 2011

The regular meeting of the Tree Committee was held on Wednesday, May 11, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. at the Department of Planning, 705 E. Churchville Road, Bel Air, Maryland.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mike Simini, Chair
Rowan Glidden, Vice Chair
Marion McCarron

ALSO PRESENT: Bob Syphard, Senior Planner
Kevin Small, Director of Planning
Wayne Merkel, DNR Forest Service
Catherine Owsianiecki, Recording Secretary

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the March 9, 2011 meeting were approved.

South Main Street Phase II Plan

Mr. Syphard stated that he received a voicemail from Dr. William Pickett, whose practice is located at the corner of East MacPhail Road and South Main Street, stating that Mr. Pickett had some concerns regarding the proposed plan. Mr. Syphard stated that he has not been able to reach Dr. Pickett to discuss those concerns yet.

Mr. Syphard stated that he believes an RFP will be sent out in late July or early August and that he envisions planting beginning in October.

Street Tree Inventory

Mr. Syphard displayed maps to the members showing the direction in which the tree inventory is headed. The first map is a representation of what is in the computer system, a combination of ortho photographs and information from the original tree inventory done in 1994 or 1995. Mr. Syphard stated that the second map is a reflection of the true inventory for the first section. He stated that the members will see that some trees were lost and others gained. Mr. Syphard stated that in Stoneleigh Place, the first section, some trees were removed from the inventory because they are not in the right-of-way. Mr. Syphard stated that he conferred with the Department of Public Works and it was agreed to deal only with right-of-way trees at this time. He stated that once the inventory is done, he may go back and look at trees on private roads, such as Kings Crossing and parts of Bradford Village. He stated that he will probably finish two more sections by this Friday and that he will work on the northwest quadrant of town over the next couple of weeks. Mr. Syphard stated that he is finding that the Town typically removes a tree due to sidewalk problems and sewer line call-ins, and are not replaced. Mr. Syphard stated that trees that are planted by homeowners are often the wrong type of tree planted in the wrong location.

Mr. Syphard stated that the Town has more control over trees in commercial areas than it has over the trees in residential areas. He stated that future plantings in residential areas will be easier to plan but more difficult to execute because some property owners do not want a tree in front of their homes.

Ms. McCarron inquired how the trees are being identified. Mr. Syphard stated that the inventory contains fields for identification, measure, comments, date of inspection, and maintenance, condition and conflicts. He stated that the maintenance field is broken down to include everything from no action needed to removal. In the case of dead wooding of any sizable tree, a contractor would need to be hired. Mr. Syphard stated that the condition fields are good, fair, poor or dead and the conflict field covers issues such as overhead lines, curbs and sidewalks.

Mr. Syphard stated that the first priority following the completion of the inventory is to remove all dead trees and determine possible replacements. He stated that trees in poor condition will be flagged for the Department of Public Works to watch and budget for later removal. Mr. Syphard stated that conflicts such as overhead lines will help the Town work with BGE on future removals. Curb and sidewalk conflicts will be flagged for the Public Works Department.

Mr. Syphard stated that he is not earmarking planting locations primarily to avoid a situation similar to the Hall Street project of a few years ago, when the plans to plant were altered by property

owners who did not want trees planted in front of their homes. He stated that it is best to put together an inventory in order to know what the Town has and then look at areas where it is advantageous to design planting plans. Mr. Syphard stated that his goal is to complete the inventory by the end of the year so the Tree Committee can then begin to decide how to use the data.

Mr. Merkel stated the previous inventory covered 163 streets. Mr. Syphard stated that the Town has 36 miles of road, which is probably 3-4 miles more than the area covered in the last inventory.

Mr. Syphard stated that he is encouraging the Department of Public Works to incorporate the Tree Inventory into the regular surveys of sidewalks and street signs in order to update tree maintenance. He stated that the Street Tree Inventory could be updated every year, with much less overall work, if the Department of Public Works would adopt that practice. Mr. Syphard stated that, in the long run, the Street Tree Inventory will benefit the Department of Public Works more than the Tree Committee; however, the inventory will allow the Tree Committee to be more judicious with its planting funds in the future.

Mr. Glidden inquired about location collection. Mr. Syphard stated that he has GPS capability, which has a range of about 3-6 feet. He stated that using handheld GIS has allowed him to utilize all the line data for buildings, property lines, curb lines, and driveways.

Mr. Small inquired if it would be best to include trees that are just outside of the right-of-way. Mr. Syphard stated that the aeriels used with the GIS allow him to consider those trees. He stated that he is using 2007 aeriels and, ultimately, any proposed plantings will require field verification.

Mr. Glidden stated that Mr. Syphard should notify the members about any dates that he may be going out to survey for the Tree Inventory so that they could possibly join him. Mr. Syphard stated that he could notify the members a day or two ahead of time.

Other

Mr. Syphard stated that John Bennett, the Volunteer Coordinator for the Maryland Big Tree Program, contacted him to discuss State measuring of all the trees on the State Champion List. Mr. Syphard stated that he updated the Town's list for Mr. Bennett. Mr. Syphard stated that two trees owned by the Town, the white oak and a pigment hickory, were measured and received Maryland State Champion List Tree Certificates.

Mr. Syphard stated that the sculpture has been installed in the Memorial Grove. He stated that sewer line work was completed in the back right corner of the Grove and a large tree was removed, which opens up and deepens that area of the Grove. Mr. Syphard stated that most of the posts used to mark the trees have been lost over time. He stated that granite blocks, left over from work completed on the Armory, will be cleaned up and numbers etched into the blocks to mark the trees.

Mr. Syphard stated that Brian Bartell has the funding to daylight the stream for the Plumtree Walkway Improvement Plan. The Town does not have the funding to fix the George Street culvert, but Trish Heidenreich from the Economic Development Department is working on grant funding. Those two phases of the project have to be addressed before the Plumtree Walkway can move forward. Mr. Syphard stated that the Tree Committee will be involved with bump-outs being considered for the walkway. He

stated that the bump-outs would probably be used for some type of bioretention, and the Tree Committee will determine what kinds of trees to plant.

Mr. Glidden inquired if the Plumtree Walkway will go all the way down Thomas Street. Mr. Syphard stated that it is probable and the best option because it offers a straight shot as an avenue or boulevard, and it offers the opportunity to connect the walkway to the Ma and Pa Trail, which will be a great incentive for people to use the walkway. Mr. Syphard stated that there appears to be enough room to make a connection to the Ma & Pa Trail without creating a stream crossing. He stated that Arden McClune, Director of Harford County Parks and Recreation, asked for the preliminary data and is interested in making a connection between the walkway and the Ma and Pa Trail.

Mr. Glidden inquired if the Town has looked into obtaining TIGER funding for the walkway. Mr. Syphard inquired if that funding is related to TEP funding. Mr. Glidden stated that it is similar to TEP funding. Mr. Syphard stated that TEP funding is a possibility. Mr. Glidden stated that he will forward any information he finds about TIGER funding to Mr. Syphard. Mr. Syphard stated that there is grant funding available for the bump-outs, but it is capped at \$30,000. Mr. Small stated that the Town did identify another \$120,000 in transportation funding from the State, which will go toward the culvert if voted in by the Commissioners next Monday.

Mr. Simini stated that he received the proclamation designating Thursday, April 28, 2011 as Bel Air Arbor Day from the Town Commissioners.

Mr. Syphard announced that the Tree Committee will probably meet in June in order to discuss updates to the Street Tree Inventory.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

September 14, 2011

The regular meeting of the Tree Committee was held on Wednesday, September 14, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. at the Department of Planning, 705 E. Churchville Road, Bel Air, Maryland.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mike Simini, Chair
Rowan Glidden, Vice Chair
Marion McCarron
Conrad Gagnon

ALSO PRESENT: Bob Syphard, Senior Planner
Wayne Merkel, DNR
Catherine Owsianiecki, Recording Secretary

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the May 11, 2011 meeting were approved.

South Main Street Planting Plan, Phase II

Mr. Syphard stated that the State Highway Administration has postponed its planting for the South Main Street corridor until fall 2011. Consequently, initiation of the South Main Street planting plan will be postponed until spring 2012.

Mr. Merkel inquired how the Town's planting plan will be funded. Mr. Syphard stated that the Town will probably fund it through the fee-in-lieu funds. Mr. Merkel stated that DNR may be receiving a large fee-in-lieu amount for the I-95 project from the Maryland Transportation Authority. Mr. Merkel stated that he will find out if some of the funds may be available for the South Main Street planting plan. Mr. Syphard stated that the Town does have the funding for the planting plan. He stated that the Town has collected 50 percent of the funds owed by Upper Chesapeake Hospital for their total project. Mr. Syphard stated that some of the residents at West Gate have been working with the hospital to come to an agreement concerning the new parking lot screening, with the possibility of putting in some additional landscaping. He stated that there is a possibility that the hospital may ask if it may utilize some of the funds it owes the Town in order to carry out planting that will be on the open space area of the West Gate development rather than the hospital's property. Mr. Syphard stated that the Town may entertain that. Mr. Merkel stated that the funds DNR may be receiving from the Maryland Transportation Authority might possibly be used for north of Bel Air. Mr. Syphard stated that the hospital planting discussions have included plantings in the Route 24 right of way as well, so the funding from the Maryland Transportation Authority would work well for that planting.

Street Tree Inventory

Mr. Syphard stated that more than 50 percent of the Tree Inventory has been completed. The bulk of the commercial inventory, except for the lower portion of Route 24, has been completed. Mr. Syphard displayed an updated map of the Tree Inventory. He stated that there are fewer trees on the updated inventory than there were on the original inventory. Mr. Syphard stated that this is due to the fact that trees that were close to the road, but on private property, were included in the original inventory while the updated inventory is dialed in more for the Public Works Department and trees in the public right-of-way. He stated that the Town has lost a lot of trees and that Public Works largely deals with trees only when necessary; trees are more often than not removed. Mr. Syphard stated that the tree loss is largely in residential areas due to the slow loss of aging trees and that the commercial corridors have more trees.

Mr. Syphard displayed a map detailing the diameter of trees in the inventory. He stated that there are very few small diameter trees in the residential areas because the Town has not been planting much in those areas. He stated that few residents want to have trees planted in front of their properties. Mr. Syphard stated that this problem may be addressed by the requirements of the new Watershed Implementation Plan with which the Town will be required to comply. Mr. Syphard stated that there are not large areas where the Town can implement stormwater management, and he pointed out areas on the map that have stormwater management and open areas that do not have stormwater management. Mr. Syphard stated that older residential communities such as Stoneleigh, Howard Park, Homestead and Shamrock have no stormwater management. Mr. Syphard stated that these are areas where the Town could provide some kind of mitigation to offset the Town's requirements to comply with the Watershed Implementation Plan. He stated that the i-Tree program will allow the Town to quantify how much mitigation trees are providing. Mr. Syphard stated that sections such as Major's Choice have planting strips that are only 3 feet wide, and bump-outs may be created in those areas for bioretention and tree planting. Mr. Syphard stated that the upside of creating bump-outs is that the planting would then be in the right of way. Mr. Syphard stated that the Department of Public Works may not be in favor of this idea because bump-outs interfere with snow plowing.

Mr. Syphard stated that the Town has a good diversity of trees. He stated that so far in the inventory Bradford pears outnumber all other trees and that the larger red stars on the map represent Bradford pears. Mr. Syphard stated that the majority of the Bradford pears date back the 1970s and 1980s, so the Town is receiving more calls to remove them. Mr. Gagnon inquired if the net loss and the number of Bradford pears would cause Bel Air to no longer be a Tree Town. Mr. Syphard stated that the numbers do not have anything to do with Bel Air's Tree Town status. He stated that the Town's requirement through the state is that there should be no net loss of public street trees and that the Town typically plants more trees than it loses.

Mr. Gagnon inquired if permeable paving would play into creating the bump-outs and parking spaces. Mr. Syphard stated that parking spaces would probably be lost if the bump-outs are created. He stated that the bump-outs would create shorter distances for pedestrians to cross streets, make roadwork narrower and create canopy with the trees, which will cut down on the heat island effect. Mr. Syphard stated that residents will hopefully see the incentives to create these corridors in their neighborhoods, which will eventually connect to feeder corridors leading to the center of Town. Ms. McCarron inquired if the Town will seek residential input. Mr. Syphard stated that the Town will have to seek residential input.

Mr. Syphard stated that red maples, cherries, Norway maples and zelcovas are four more trees that are prominent on the inventory. He stated that there are a lot of silver maples in Homestead, and there are a lot of oaks in the inventory as well.

Mr. Syphard stated that he attended a seminar about the ash bore infestation and that it is a forgone conclusion that the ash trees will be lost, especially in forested areas, unless systemic pesticides are proactively used. Mr. Syphard stated that he was forewarned that the Asian long-horned beetles will infest the maple trees. Mr. Syphard stated that he is more worried about the maples because it sounds like it could be an epidemic if the Asian long-horned beetle arrives. Mr. Merkel stated that the Asian long-horned beetle was eradicated in New Jersey and has not been seen there since 2006. Mr. Merkel stated that in New York the Asian long-horned beetle does not move as quickly as the emerald ash bore; therefore, it is easier to eradicate.

Mr. Syphard stated that the inventory indicates 21 trees need to be removed, which is approximately 2 percent of the existing trees in the inventory. He stated that he hopes to have the tree inventory completed by the next meeting in October, weather permitting. Mr. Syphard stated that once the inventory is complete, the Tree Committee will look at species selection. Mr. Syphard stated that over the next few months, the Town will continue discuss ways to offset its requirements for the Watershed Implementation Plan.

Mr. Gagnon inquired if there is an overall assessment of the canopy in Bel Air. Mr. Syphard stated that he does not have the ability to do that and that there is some talk about providing an overall assessment of the canopy in the Watershed Implementation Plan. Mr. Gagnon stated that having an overall assessment of the canopy might motivate people and communities to put trees back on their properties if they were given a certain percentage of canopy as a goal. Mr. Syphard stated that the problem faced by the Public Works Department is that the standard 5,000 square foot figure for stormwater management does not pertain to residential lots; rather, it is a blanket single-lot agreement. He stated that over time, residential lots that once had little impervious area often develop 60-70 percent of impervious area. Mr. Syphard stated that one way to address this issue is to start with a baseline and then require property owners to mitigate by planting trees or paying a fee-in-lieu if they increase the impervious area on their properties.

Mr. Merkel stated that the state has a Marylanders Plant Trees program that offers a \$25 coupon for trees valued at \$50 or more, which is accepted at Maryland nurseries. He stated that the County's Grow Your Own program offers a \$10 coupon that may be used in conjunction with the coupon from the state.

Mr. Glidden stated that communities would be incentivized to plant more trees if they were given a package that outlines the quantifiable benefits of increasing the percentage of canopy. Mr. Merkel[®] stated that the Maryland Forest Service has the Marylanders Plant Trees program on its website, which allows you to calculate the benefits of planting trees. Mr. Syphard stated that BGE also has quantifiable information available about the benefits of planting trees and reducing energy costs.

Other

Mr. Syphard stated that Westminster will offer its 19th Annual Community and Urban Forestry Workshop on Friday, October 7. He stated that if any of the members would like to attend, he can offer the funds for them to attend and also forward the agenda to them. The workshop will be held at the Carroll Community College Conference Center.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

November 9, 2011

The regular meeting of the Tree Committee was held on Wednesday, November 9, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. at the Department of Planning, 705 E. Churchville Road, Bel Air, Maryland.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mike Simini, Chair
 Rowan Glidden, Vice Chair
 Marion McCarron
 Frank Lopez

ALSO PRESENT: Bob Syphard, Senior Planner
 Wayne Merkel, DNR
 Catherine Owsianiecki, Recording Secretary

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the September 14, 2011 meeting were approved.

Street Tree Inventory

Mr. Syphard stated that the Street Tree Inventory is now complete and the Town's street tree population amounts to 1,763 trees. Mr. Syphard stated that he was not as generous as the foresters who completed the original inventory in 1992 or 1993 when considering the extent of right-of-way. He stated that many trees on the old inventory were actually on private property. Mr. Syphard stated that he limited this inventory to trees that are in the public right-of-way. Ms. McCarron inquired about the criteria used to determine the right-of-way. Mr. Syphard stated that

right-of-way is determined by the street property line, which delimits the property from the public roadway. He stated that most streets in the Town are 45-60' right-of-ways. He stated that in some cases, such as Route 24, the right-of-ways may be 120' wide. Mr. Syphard stated that public rights-of-way are public properties, whether they are Town, county or state properties.

Mr. Syphard stated that the condition of the population is graded on a scale of 1-4, with 1=good condition, no real issues; 2=some dieback or root issues, but still in good condition; 3=significant dieback, tree in decline; 4=dead tree. Mr. Syphard stated that over 95% of the trees in the inventory are grade 1 or 2. He stated that over 92% of the trees do not require maintenance related to issues such as cracked or lifted sidewalks or overhead power lines. Mr. Syphard stated that less than 2% of the population should be removed. He stated that approximately 19% of the tree population is in conflict in some way with infrastructure.

Mr. Glidden inquired if any trees that were touching the property line were included in the inventory. Mr. Syphard stated that he did not include any trees touching the property line that were obviously planted and being maintained by the property owner. He stated that if the tree were to go into decline, the property owner would likely maintain it, but the Town would look at the tree if the owner did not maintain it. Mr. Glidden inquired if the property owner would still be required to obtain a permit to trim or remove the tree. Mr. Syphard stated that if the property owner planted the tree, he or she would not need to obtain a permit as it is no expense to the Town. He stated that trees between the curb and the sidewalk are right-of-way trees that will be claimed as Town trees regardless of who planted them. Mr. Syphard stated that the purpose of the Street Tree Inventory was to catalog the trees that the Town controls. Mr. Glidden stated that he could see property owners using the trees actually listed in the inventory as a deciding factor as to whether or not they need to obtain a permit. Mr. Syphard stated that the Town policy maintains that property owners who insist on removing a healthy right-of-way tree may sign a contract, remove the tree themselves and pay the Town to replace the tree. Mr. Syphard stated that if a tree can be shown to be in the public right-of-way, it is subject to the permitting process even if it has been bypassed on the inventory. Mr. Lopez stated that if any part of the base of the tree is in the right-of-way, then it is a roadside tree.

Mr. Simini stated that the *Bel Air Bond* could possibly publish an article explaining to Town residents what qualifies as a right-of-way tree. Mr. Syphard stated that the Tree Committee may want to consider placing an article about right-of-way trees and permitting requirements in the *Bond* this spring.

Mr. Syphard stated that the Tree Committee should consider limiting the planting of red maples for the time being as red maples are currently 20% of the population. He stated that the Town has more than enough maples as a genus in the population. Mr. Syphard stated that oaks are in the low end of the 10-20% range. He stated that the Tree Committee may want to consider limiting the planting of ash, cherries and pears in the future.

Mr. Syphard distributed a list of trees that are graded as 4 and need to be removed. He stated that the list is color-coded as to whether they are State Highway Administration trees, Town trees that should be removed by the Town or by contractors, and trees that BGE must remove.

Mr. Syphard displayed a map of species diversity and a map of distribution and tree canopies based on the diameter of the trees. He stated that there are some areas, such as Howard Park, with virtually no trees. Mr. Syphard also displayed a map of tree condition. He pointed out that there are a few areas of tree stress in Homestead and Stoneleigh and in parts of the major corridors, such as Route 24.

Mr. Syphard stated that the inventory can be used proactively by the Tree Committee as the basis of work plans over the next couple of years and that these work plans can be presented to the Public Works Department and the Town Commissioners as part of the budget process.

Mr. Syphard stated that he would like to use the inventory to make correlations between trees conditions and sidewalk problems, and then the Tree Committee can determine if there is a tree that will better fit the conditions in that particular planting area.

Mr. Syphard stated that he will be working on making the data for the i-Tree program as accurate as possible in the coming months.

Watershed Implementation Plan

Mr. Syphard stated that street tree planting will be the Tree Committee's role in the Watershed Implementation Plan, and it will now be a question of how proactive the members would like to be. He stated that the Tree Committee could be as proactive as to create work plans for various areas of the Town. Mr. Syphard stated that the Tree Committee could choose to be reactive and wait until the Public Works Department and the Commissioners ask for work plans for street tree plantings.

Mr. Syphard asked the members to consider how they would like to proceed. He stated that the Tree Committee may meet in December if the members choose to do so. He stated that he would like to meet in December because the completed inventory will allow the Tree Committee to become very proactive in terms of a work plan. Mr. Syphard stated that the work plan will need to be completed by early February in order for it to be budgeted properly.