

January 11, 2012

The regular meeting of the Tree Committee was held on Wednesday, January 11, 2012 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
Susan Burdette, Town Commissioner
Catherine Owsianiecki, Recording Secretary

Election of Officers

Due to the absence of member Conrad Gagnon, the members present agreed to table the election of officers until the February 2012 meeting.

Approval of Minutes

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

2012 Tree Plan

Mr. Syphard inquired if the members had any suggestions regarding the draft of the 2012 Tree Plan. He stated that he would like to complete the 2012 Tree Plan within the next month due to the budgeting. Mr. Glidden inquired if there is any reason that the size groups on the Tree Diameter Statistics graph on page 3 are different. Mr. Syphard stated that he had just happened to arrange the size groups in that manner. Mr. Glidden stated that there is one less group on the

previous sample on page 2. Mr. Syphard stated that the graph can be changed to reflect the previous number of groups. Mr. Syphard stated that his main reason for showing the graph is to illustrate that there are a large number of small-diameter trees and a small number of large-diameter trees.

Mr. Glidden stated that it would be helpful to include a chart illustrating the predominance of certain species in order to demonstrate any skews and the distribution by size. Mr. Syphard stated that a chart illustrating the predominance of certain species will be added to the 2012 Tree Plan.

Mr. Glidden stated that the first two sentences below the pie charts on page 6 appear to contradict one another. Mr. Syphard stated that these sentences, along with the pie charts on page 6, explain that there is a good diversity of trees; however, the majority of the population includes tree species that are not preferred. Mr. Glidden inquired about the meaning conveyed by the clause "the number of trees is well below the potential population for the subdivision" on page 6. Mr. Syphard stated that the clause means that there are numerous places to plant.

Mr. Syphard stated that the Tree Committee should arrive at a good selection of trees, based on the availability of both trees and planting locations. Mr. Syphard advised that the Public Works Department would prefer to prohibit planting in 3' lawns. He stated that, if the Public Works Department would rather not see plantings on lawns smaller than 5', the Tree Committee will need to consider what is appropriate to plant on a 5' lawn. Mr. Syphard stated that larger caliper trees should be considered for 8-10' lawns.

Mr. Glidden inquired if the map could be shaded gray outside of the Town limits to make the Town trees more visible on the map. Mr. Syphard stated that it would probably be easier to shade the Town rather than Harford County on the map, but he will distinguish the Town from Harford County on the map. Mr. Glidden stated that it would be a good idea to include a hatch

with the private roads in order to explain graphically why there are no trees in those areas. Mr. Syphard stated that it would be easiest to portray those areas by coloring the road systems.

Mr. Syphard stated that he will make the suggested changes to the 2012 Tree Plan and email or mail them to the members before the next meeting.

South Main Street Project

Mr. Syphard distributed copies of a 2007 orthophotograph of the section of Country Village at the corner of Route 924 and Idlewild Road. Mr. Syphard stated that Phase II of the South Main Street Project will begin at Idlewild Road. Mr. Syphard stated that there are several Norway maples on both sides of Idlewild Road that are not in bad shape, but he was told that the Public Works Department would like to remove those Norway maples and replace them. Mr. Syphard stated that 4-5 trees shown in the 2007 orthophotograph have since been removed. He stated that there are presently a couple of small red maples on Idlewild Road and that all of the large trees are Norway maples.

Mr. Syphard stated that the Tree Committee may use the 2012 Tree Plan to determine a good planting plan for this section of road. Mr. Syphard stated that all of the intersections are red-curbed for approximately 30'. He stated that he does not know how often the sidewalks from the apartment complex to the road are used and that his thought is that, in the future, those sidewalks could be bubbled out and utilized as better pedestrian crosswalks across Idlewild Road.

Mr. Syphard stated that there are primarily Sargent cherries on the north side of Idlewild Road and that redbuds, serviceberries and two hornbeams are the primary trees coming in from the south of Idlewild Road. He stated that the Tree Committee should decide if that type of Tree Plan should be continued down Idlewild Road. Mr. Syphard stated that he had thought that trees of two different sizes are a possibility and that trees should not be planted at sidewalk locations on the south side of Idlewild Road in order to keep a sense of formality on both sides of the

street. He stated that those potentially could become bump-outs or parking delineators, but that will need to be coordinated by the Public Works Department. Mr. Glidden inquired if those elements have been designed by the Public Works Department. Mr. Syphard stated that he does not believe the Public Works Department is planning any roadway improvements, but the Tree Committee may want to create a Tree Plan with those potential improvements in mind. He stated that the Tree Committee should come up with a couple more medium-sized trees for planting this area. Mr. Syphard stated that he told the Public Works Department that the Tree Committee can coordinate a planting plan next month if the Public Works Department plans to move ahead with the project in the spring.

Mr. Syphard stated that he does not believe the Public Works Department has funding for planting and that the Tree Committee's fee-in-lieu funds may be used for this phase of the project. He stated that this is potentially a 20-25 tree project depending on the species chosen.

Mr. Syphard stated that there are sewer and water lines in the area and that the soil material is not the best in those planting strips. Mr. Syphard stated that he does not believe there will be any serious utility issues as long as the plantings are kept away from the entrance points.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

February 8, 2012

The regular meeting of the Tree Committee was held on Wednesday, February 8, 2012 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
 Susan Burdette, Town Commissioner
 Wayne Merkel, DNR
 Catherine Owsianiecki, Recording Secretary

Election of Officers

Ms. McCarron moved and Mr. Lopez seconded the motion to re-elect Mike Simini Chair and to re-elect Rowan Glidden Vice Chair of the Tree Committee for the calendar year 2012.

The motion carried.

Administrative Matters

The minutes of the January 11, 2012 meeting were approved.

2012 Tree Plan

Mr. Syphard stated that changes were made to the 2012 Tree Plan based on comments from last month's meeting. Mr. Syphard inquired if the members present had any questions or comments. Mr. Glidden stated that he likes the additions in the appendix. Mr. Glidden noted the differences between the Tree Diameter graphs on page 3. Mr. Syphard stated that the graphs overlap. He stated that Cornell's graph runs 1-5 and 5-10 and that the Town's graph runs 1-5 and 6-10. Mr. Glidden inquired where 5.5 would be placed on the Town's graph. Mr. Syphard stated that he measured categorized by whole numbers in the inventory and on the Town's graph.

Mr. Syphard stated that there are 3-4 good roadways for planting in Homestead with planting strips that are at least 5' wide and, in some cases, 8'-10' wide. He stated that some areas in Homestead have very few trees, and the Tree Committee could easily formulate a plan for 20-30 trees. Mr. Syphard stated that the South Main Street Project would include a plan for approximately 30 trees. He stated that a planting plan could also be formulated for portions of Howard Park.

South Main Street Planting Plan

Mr. Syphard stated that he has incorporated minor changes to the RFP. Mr. Syphard stated that he sent written notice to the affected property owners last week and that he has not received any response to date. He stated that he will verify with the Public Works Department that there is no tree planting conflicts from a utility standpoint. Mr. Syphard stated that he hopes to send the RFP out soon enough to review proposals during the March meeting.

Mr. Syphard inquired if the members present had any questions or comments about the RFP. Mr. Merkel inquired if any trees from Phase I could be replaced during Phase II. Mr. Syphard stated that 2 or 3 trees from Phase I were removed. He stated that one of the stumps is still there, but he could not recall if the other two stumps remain. Mr. Syphard stated that the contractor chosen will probably not remove the stumps unless he revises the RFP to include stump removal. He stated that the Public Works Department could grind the stumps since the stumps are no more than 4 inches in diameter. One of the trees removed was a Sargent cherry,

which the Tree Committee will probably not be able to replicate because it was large for a Sargent cherry tree.

Mr. Syphard stated that there are no immediate plans to pursue the Idlewild Road planting discussed at last month's meeting.

Mr. Syphard stated that the South Main Street Planting will likely be the Tree Committee's Arbor Day Project for 2012.

Mr. Simini inquired where the RFP will be posted. Mr. Syphard stated that the RFP will be advertised in the *Aegis* and posted on the Town's website, and it will be mailed to a running list of landscaping firms.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

March 14, 2012

The regular meeting of the Tree Committee was held on Wednesday, March 14, 2012 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

Administrative Matters

A motion was made to approve the minutes from the February 8, 2012 meeting.

South Main Street Bids

Mr. Syphard explained that the Committee should determine the process for opening, recording and reviewing the bids received for the South Main Street planting project. The RFP stated that proposals will be evaluated based on the applicant's ability to comply with the planting requirements specified in Section II of the RFP, the planting schedule, and the cost proposal. Since the method of planting was clearly stated in the RFP and no background information from bidders was required, the Committee will review the bids primarily based on the cost proposal. The Committee discussed and agreed that based on the RFP the review could also include the quality and clarity of the proposal. As those elements weren't specifically stated

but implied, the Committee determined that quality and clarity of proposals would be a determining factor should two or more bids be presented at relatively equal cost.

Seven bids were received. Each bid package was opened and the cost proposal recorded. The members reviewed each bid individually, and proposals were then discussed. As the cost proposals from lowest to highest were significantly different, the Committee decided to compare the three lowest bids for contract. Of the three proposals, the highest proposal did not follow the submittal process requirements and was subsequently removed from consideration. The two remaining proposals were compared for both cost and quality and clarity. Both submissions were properly submitted and well written, so the Committee selected the lowest bid presented by Ashton Manor Environmental as it was approximately 13% lower in cost.

Following unanimous approval to recommend award of the contract to Ashton Manor Environmental, Mr. Glidden suggested the company be reviewed and licenses confirmed as this and the second lowest bid were from companies the Committee has not done business with in the past. Mr. Syphard and Mr. Merkel agreed to verify the arborist certification and tree expert license information provided. Mr. Syphard stated that he will follow up with the contractor and relay the final contract approval process. Mr. Syphard stated that the Town Commissioners will be provided the background information at their upcoming work session and should approve the contract for the project at their April 2, 2012 meeting. Further, it was suggested that several of the hornbeam trees lost in the Phase I section be replaced as part of the project. Mr. Syphard agreed to discuss this with the contractor. Once the contract is awarded Mr. Syphard will coordinate a planting date and prepare an Arbor Day Proclamation for the Town Board.

Other Business

Mr. Merkel and Mr. Lopez briefly discussed federal grants that may provide funding for the Committee for future projects. One grant is pending federal House approval and would provide for roadside beautification projects. A second grant currently available provides money for trail and bikeway projects. It was determined that grants could be requested for the Plumtree Walkway project and future MA & PA and Rockfield Park trail projects.

Adjournment

Being no other business the meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m. Mr. Syphard reminded the Committee members that there will be no meeting in April.

May 9, 2012

The regular meeting of the Tree Committee was held on Wednesday, May 9, 2012 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, Senior Planner
Catherine Owsianiecki, Recording Secretary

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the March 14, 2012 meeting were approved.

South Main Street Planting Plan RFP

Mr. Syphard distributed photographs of the South Main Street planting. He stated that the contractor completed the planting in one day and that the plantings look very good. Mr. Syphard stated that the planting was delayed for one week because the contractor had difficulties obtaining hornbeams. The planting materials are very good and that the hornbeams are secured with wood stakes inserted through the root balls. Mr. Lopez inquired about the source for the planting materials. Mr. Syphard stated that Ashton Manor Environmental completed the planting, but he is not sure where they obtained the planting materials. Mr. Syphard stated that there were no complaints about the planting.

Future Planting Projects

Mr. Syphard displayed a map of the Town and stated that the next project for the Tree Committee will probably be along Thomas Street. He stated that the RFP is pending for the culvert under George Street, and that a grant for the culvert also is pending. Mr. Syphard stated that the Town is assuming that all funding requested will be available and that the stream will be daylighted in June or July. He stated that the second phase of the project will involve improvements to the Thomas Street walkway, which will include landscaping and possibly some bioretention areas. Mr. Syphard stated that this phase of the project will not likely take place until next year due to some right of way issues that will need to be addressed by the Town Commissioners.

Mr. Syphard stated that the Tree Committee may want to revisit the Tollgate Road intersection at the Harford Mall. He stated that all but one of the trees are Bradford pears, and this may be an opportune time to remove those trees and draft a new landscape plan.

Mr. Syphard stated that Kevin Small would like the Tree Committee to investigate shade tree plantings around the bandstand at Shamrock Park. He stated that there are mostly oaks in the park and that sugar maples or elms might be appropriate. Mr. Syphard stated that he previously has been asked by the coordinator of the Arts Festival to limit tree plantings. Mr. Gagnon stated that vendors set up under the canopy of trees at the Arts Festival.

Mr. Syphard stated that the Tree Committee may want to be proactive and draft a new landscape plan for the Memorial Grove. He stated the Grove could be fully developed to become a place for people to visit and meditate rather than a site for people to buy into with memorial plantings.

Mr. Syphard stated that there is a hillside patch on the west end of the Rockfield gardens populated with volunteer species and is not maintained. Mr. Syphard stated that Mr. Small would like the Tree Committee to look at the area for clean out and enhancement, mainly for sound attenuation.

Mr. Gagnon inquired if there has been movement on the Harford Sanitation property for the Ma & Pa Trail. Mr. Syphard stated that there are ongoing discussions with a property owner off of Cressy Parkway about obtaining the land needed to make a connection between Hickory Village and Cressy Parkway in order to make Trail connection. He stated that the Foundation, Harford County and the State Highway Administration (SHA) are all involved in the discussions. Mr. Gagnon inquired if the trail connection can come down along the Mill of Bel Air. Mr. Syphard stated that the Town is hoping for that to happen, but the existing easement is limited to 3' as it terminates at Rock Spring Road. The adjoining property owner would need to offer the remaining area necessary for the full 10' easement.

Mr. Gagnon inquired about the sidewalk improvement from Harford Day School along Moores Mill Road. Mr. Syphard stated that roadway improvements will be to both the sidewalk and road and that the improvements involve realigning and widening the road and installing the sidewalk. Mr. Glidden inquired how far the improvements extend. He stated that he knows the improvements will extend east of Hickory Avenue. Mr. Syphard stated that the improvements extend at least as far as Rock Spring Road.

Mr. Lopez inquired about the property that was annexed from St. Matthew's Church. Mr. Syphard stated that there is a conceptual proposal for that area, but it is unlikely to happen in the form in which it was presented, and the proposed project would be off of Moores Mill Road. Mr. Syphard stated that there has been discussion of a trail system within the St. Matthew's property. Mr. Lopez stated that the purple Gentian in that area is a species about which the state is concerned. Mr. Syphard stated that the bog turtle may also be in that area.

Mr. Syphard stated that the Town is currently pursuing grant funding from the state for improvements to several trails in the Town. He stated that if the Town is successful in making more connections, there will be more opportunities for planting projects.

Mr. Lopez inquired about the type of sidewalk being installed along Moores Mill Road. Mr. Syphard stated he assumes the sidewalk will be according to SHA requirements, and 5' in width. Mr. Lopez inquired if there will be enough room for an asphalt bike lane, which would provide easier access to the Town. Mr. Syphard stated that he does not know if the planned improvements on Moores Mill Road include a bike lane. Mr. Syphard stated that there are a number of blind curves, which are unsafe for cyclists, on Moores Mill Road. Mr. Syphard stated that the Town is trying to develop feeders from residential areas for cyclists to ride into the Town, park their bikes and walk to Main and Bond Streets. He stated that Thomas Street will be the first application for those bike feeder routes. In order to create

bike lanes, existing parking along roadway will have to be reduced or eliminated; that becomes a legislative issue. Mr. Gagnon stated that alleys exist in some of those areas. Mr. Syphard stated that some residents will not use the alleys for parking but prefer to park on the street, and all of the parking will be need to be moved to one side of the street in order to accommodate a bike lane, which will reduce parking. Mr. Glidden stated that one of the cross streets along Main and Bond Streets could be made friendlier to cyclists. Mr. Syphard stated that the Town wants to bring cyclists to Main Street, where there would be a facility to park bikes and walk to downtown destinations. Mr. Syphard stated that there will be more landscaping opportunities associated with any sidewalk improvements that come to fruition.

Mr. Glidden inquired if there is a canopy design element associated with the daylighting of the stream in the Plumtree Walkway Improvement Project. Mr. Syphard stated that landscaping is an element of the project and that small trees will be planted to enhance the course of the stream. Mr. Lopez inquired if the stream is currently underground in a culvert. Mr. Syphard stated that the stream is currently underground in a 12" pipe. Mr. Syphard stated that this area is also in a flood plain and the daylighting of the stream will create some storage capacity as well. He stated that the project has been engineered and mapped so that the flood plain north of Baltimore Pike will actually shrink considerably. Mr. Lopez noted that the National Trail Grant awards \$30,000-\$40,000 per project if those projects include multiples uses, such as bike trails.

Ms. McCarron stated that the Tree Committee could begin working on the hillside plan for the Rockfield gardens. Mr. Syphard stated that a planting plan would be easy, and the Tree Committee could work on it over the course of one or two meetings.

Mr. Syphard stated that the Memorial Grove is developed at approximately 25% of the original plan and the Tree Committee would need to redesign the landscaping elements.

Mr. Lopez stated that the Tollgate intersection at Harford Mall looks promising. Mr. Syphard stated that this would be a good Arbor Day project. Mr. Gagnon inquired how mall management would be prevented from removing any trees or landscaping in the future. Mr. Syphard stated that the Town could have the management agree to an easement or MOU if the planting is not fully contained in the public right of way. Mr. Syphard stated that the planting plan could incorporate a small Welcome to Bel Air sign in brick with landscaping around it. Mr. Glidden inquired if there are any legal issues with co-locating signs in that area. Mr. Syphard stated that Harford Mall already has its full allotment of signs and that a sign mentioning Harford Mall could not be placed in the public right of way. Mr. Glidden stated that Harford Mall possibly could sponsor the Welcome to Bel Air Sign.

Other

Mr. Syphard stated that the Town was awarded a flag to commemorate its 20-year membership in Tree City USA.

Mr. Simini read a proclamation from the Town Commissioners proclaiming April 18, 2012 Bel Air Arbor Day.

Mr. Lopez stated that the Forestry Board has given out 4,000 trees and seedlings to schools and other organizations. Mr. Lopez stated that the Forestry Board developed a successful program called Backyard Buffers, in which 25 trees of five different species were bagged with information about the species and given to landowners and organizations, particularly in areas along creeks, for free. He stated that the Forestry Board was given 200 packs this year and that almost all of them have been distributed.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

September 12, 2012

The regular meeting of the Tree Committee was held on Wednesday, September 12, 2012 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
Susan Burdette, Town Commissioner
Wayne Merkel, DNR
Catherine Owsianiecki, Recording Secretary

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the May 9, 2012 meeting were approved.

Plumtree Walkway Planting Project

Mr. Syphard stated that he spoke with Harford Mall General Manager Laurie Altman about a landscape plan for the corner at Baltimore Pike and Tollgate Road. As Ms. Altman did not get back to Mr. Syphard, it looks as if the Mall is not interested in any changes. Mr. Syphard stated that he will not pursue this further as this is the second time he has approached Ms. Altman.

Mr. Syphard stated that the daylighting of Plumtree Run and the George Street culvert replacement are currently underway. Another phase of the overall project will involve the Plumtree Walkway. Mr. Syphard displayed a map of the Town's vision of possible routes. He stated that one of the primary goals of this and future walkway projects is to establish bike lanes. There are very few existing roadways in the Town that can support bikes lanes. For instance, lanes are not feasible on Main Street or Bond Street due to parking design in those areas. The Planning Department envisions bikes lanes leading from the residential areas to the downtown area. Mr. Syphard stated that the Plumtree Walkway will be the first of potentially a half-dozen bicycle routes stemming from a residential area. Mr. Syphard stated that Thomas Street offers the opportunity to install bike lanes with a connection to the MA & PA Trail through the Kelly Fields lot. He stated that the Town hopes to begin this phase of the project early next year, but this will depend entirely on the availability of grant funding.

Mr. Syphard stated that there are three different sections of right-of-way on Thomas Street—traveling west on Thomas Street the right-of-way width changes from 40' closest to Bond Street to 45' or 50' and then to 60'. He advised that there will not likely be any changes to the existing locations of the sidewalks, although they may be upgraded. In all likelihood, curbs will be relocated to accommodate bike lanes and landscaping. Mr. Syphard advised that if parking is removed from one side of the street completely, 8'-10' of additional right-of-way area will be available, allowing for the creation of bike lanes on both sides of the street. The existing area can be utilized for landscaping. Some suggested bump-outs to delimit parking areas could incorporate bio-retention facilities.

Mr. Syphard stated that the Tree Committee should begin discussing possible scenarios with emphasis on street tree selection on Thomas Street and also Atwood Road, as this is the only place to safely cross Baltimore Pike. Mr. Syphard advised that there are electric lines from Thomas Street south, which is a limiting factor. There are no limiting factors from the Thomas/Atwood intersection up to Gordon Street. Mr. Syphard advised that there is probably sufficient existing plant material in the right of way north of Gordon Street.

Mr. Syphard stated that most of the properties on Atwood Road are 65'-70' wide and that the Tree Committee should create an uncomplicated plan with one tree per property roughly 80' feet apart. He advised that, in regard to Thomas Street, the Tree Committee may be shown a design plan designating specific areas that can be landscaped. Mr. Syphard stated that there are two speed humps on Atwood Road, which could present opportunities to concentrate landscaping. Mr. Syphard stated that the Tree Committee can very easily fund these landscaping projects. Mr. Merkel inquired about the tree lawn on Atwood Road. Mr. Syphard stated there is 5' for certain, but he advised that there is probably not enough room to plant large trees like elms.

Mr. Merkel inquired where the plantings will be on Thomas Street. Mr. Syphard stated that there are currently 3' planting strips on Thomas Street, and moving the curb lines will create 5' planting strips on each side. One vision is to remove all the parking on the north side of the street and create bump-outs at the intersections, which could function as bioretention facilities and planting areas. Those bump-outs also could be a better means to delineate parking.

Mr. Syphard stated that Thomas Street could be a feeder for both pedestrian and bicycle traffic from the residential area to the downtown and mall commercial areas. Mr. Lopez stated that tree lawns in the middle of the road would slow down automobile traffic, making it safer for pedestrian and bicycle traffic. Mr. Syphard stated that the Town has considered that idea, but the maintenance for strips in the middle of the road would be the responsibility of Public Works while the property owners would be responsible for maintaining strips between the sidewalk and the curb. Mr. Lopez stated that garden clubs possibly could maintain strips in the middle of the road.

Mr. Syphard stated that, in the spring, the Tree Committee will look at some of the former plantings, specifically on South Main Street, where some Sargent cherry trees were lost. He stated that those trees will be replaced and he will have all of the other right-of-way trees mulched.

Mr. Syphard stated that Kevin Small will likely go to Shamrock Park during the Festival for the Arts and find locations best suited for the planting of shade trees. Mr. Syphard advised that elms will work best because of the need for a high canopy. Mr. Merkel inquired how many trees will be planted. Mr. Syphard stated that two or three trees will likely be planted to create more shade in the park.

Ms. Burdette stated that she noticed people falling over the large roots of trees in Shamrock Park during the Outdoor Movie Series. Mr. Syphard stated that it would be best to mulch those trees, but that would also take up space that is used by people in the park. Mr. Glidden stated that the soil in those areas could be augmented and planted with shade-tolerant grasses that will grow 12"-18" tall. Mr. Syphard stated that those tall grasses would likely result in maintenance calls to the Town. Mr. Lopez stated that some type of ground cover could be placed in those areas.

Mr. Syphard asked the members to look at the Thomas Street and Atwood Road areas when possible and to formulate some tree selection ideas. He advised that Atwood Road will be a Tree Committee project and will not be included in the Plumtree Walkway project. Mr. Syphard stated that he feels it's important to have plantings on both streets.

Mr. Lopez stated that residents on Atwood Road should be shown renderings or pictures of Atwood Road with and without trees to demonstrate the difference it makes in the streetscape.

Mr. Merkel inquired about the Memorial Grove. Mr. Syphard stated that he received a call from Mr. Hendrickson, who asked about planting a tree in the grove in memory of his wife. He stated that the Town is considering a small land swap that could expand the grove. Mr. Syphard stated that there is room for approximately a half-dozen more trees, depending on size. He stated that he advises people to choose a place in the grove and then they can discuss the options for trees in those spots. Mr. Syphard stated that, once the grove is full, he would like to take the plaques off the stone and have the stone permanently engraved. It is possible that another sculpture will be placed in the Memorial Grove.

Mr. Lopez stated that Sam Jones asked him to identify an elm tree located at 338 Broadway. Mr. Lopez displayed a leaf from this tree and advised that he was unable to retrieve bark from the tree as the bark is covered with English ivy. Mr. Lopez stated that according to *Woody Plants Maryland*, the two largest elms are American elm and slippery elm. He advised that the top of the American elm leaf is smooth while the top of the slippery elm leaf is rough like sandpaper. Mr. Syphard stated that all of the elms at Rockfield Manor are American elms. Mr. Syphard stated that there were slippery elms among some volunteers in an embankment on the right side of Route 22 between Rockfield Manor and the parking lot. He advised that this area was cleaned up when work was done on the sidewalk a few years ago. Mr. Lopez stated that the tree can be identified if he can obtain a live leaf or a piece of its bark.

Mr. Glidden inquired about possibly initiating a project at the Rockfield arboretum/tree grove. Mr. Syphard stated that Rockfield Manor does hold the Wine Festival and other events there, but the Tree Committee might consider a project on the hillside. He stated that he would like to have Jane Pessagno involved to determine how that area is utilized. Mr. Lopez stated that the Forestry Board gives out trees to organizations for those types of projects.

Mr. Merkel inquired if the Route 924 plantings from this spring are under guarantee. He stated that 4 or 5 trees died and that two older trees were lost this summer. Mr. Syphard stated that he will monitor the trees to see which trees leaf out and then have the contractor replace the trees. He stated that he will likely purchase replacement trees and then have all the trees mulched.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

October 10, 2012

The regular meeting of the Tree Committee was held on Wednesday, October 10, 2012 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 12, 2012 meeting were approved.

Shamrock Park Planting

Mr. Syphard stated that Kevin Small has recommended planting locations for three shade trees in Shamrock Park. Mr. Syphard displayed a map of plantings in Shamrock Park. He stated that two trees will fit well on the edge of the existing tree canopy. Mr. Syphard stated that the third tree may not be planted due to concerns from the organizers of the Festival for the Arts about planting in the open area of the park. He stated that the park currently contains pin oaks, bur oaks closest to Town Hall and a combination of pin, red and willow oaks along Lee Way. Mr. Syphard stated that elms will work well with the high canopy and V-shape. He stated that the Tree Committee has been asked to make a recommendation. It was determined that American Elms would be appropriate shade trees to plant in Shamrock Park.

Memorial Tree Grove

Mr. Syphard stated that Bill Hitchman would like to plant a tree in memory of his son and that Ron Hendrickson would like to plant a tree in memory of his wife in the Memorial Tree Grove. Two locations have been selected based on the selected tree species. Mr. Syphard displayed a map of the trees currently existing and proposed plantings in the Memorial Grove. Mr. Hitchman would prefer to plant a Ginkgo, but also mentioned planting a type of native Japanese evergreen. Mr. Hendrickson will likely

plant an elm, but he also would like to look at the availability of trees. In both cases, the trees will be procured and planted by the family members.

Mr. Syphard stated that one of the three red maples planted in the Memorial Grove has a bad crotch. He stated that as a specimen tree, it should have been trimmed a long time ago. He stated that the Tree Committee may want to consider removing this and other poorly limbed trees in the grove that are not memorial trees. Mr. Syphard stated that a black walnut tree is on the edge of the grove, is not in good shape and should be removed.

Mr. Syphard stated that the Town is considering a land swap that would increase the size of the Grove and open up space for some additional plantings. Mr. Merkel inquired about existing planting area in the Memorial Grove. Mr. Syphard stated that, with the addition of the two new trees, there is currently room for 3-4 small trees and that removing the red maple and black oak would create more opportunity.

Mr. Syphard stated that eventually he would like to remove the small plaques from the monument and have the stone permanently etched. He stated that another consideration is to use granite pieces similar to the monument stone to create permanent markers for the trees. Ms. McCarron inquired about a date for a decision regarding the proposed land swap. Mr. Syphard stated that the Commissioners are currently discussing the possibility.

Fulford Avenue Right-of-Way Planting Plan

Mr. Syphard displayed a map of the current plantings on Fulford Avenue. He stated that most of the Bradford pear trees lining both sides of Fulford Avenue where it converges with Route 22 have been lost to storm damage over recent years. The location currently contains one Bradford pear, a portion of which is split. Mr. Syphard stated that the south side of the right-of-way abutting Rockfield Park offers the opportunity to develop a tree planting plan.

Mr. Syphard displayed some photographs of the area. He stated that planted along the sidewalk would create a visibility problem but recommended planting at the base and at the crest of the hill, which is in line with two zelkova trees. He stated that the planting plan presents a lot of opportunity as there are no overhead lines, sewer lines or water lines to consider.

Mr. Syphard asked the Tree Committee members to think about the species they would like to include in this planting plan, which will be discussed at next month's meeting. Mr. Lopez stated that it might be good idea to plant some smaller trees low and stagger the area with some larger trees to create a high/low effect with trees blooming at different times of the year. Mr. Syphard stated that crape myrtles or buckeyes might work well in that area and that the sugar maples planted there have done very well. Ms. McCarron suggested planting crape myrtles of differing colors.

Mr. Glidden inquired if the Welcome to Bell Air sign is still in that location on Route 22. Mr. Syphard stated that there is a sign at the road intersection as you enter town. Mr. Glidden stated that the sign is a gateway to the Town, and he inquired if the planting around this sign should complement the

planting around other signs leading into the Town. Mr. Syphard stated that the visibility of the sign driving in and out of the Town is the reason why he would like to see as much color as possible there throughout the year.

Mr. Syphard stated that Rockfield Manor Foundation should be notified once the Tree Committee develops a planting plan and that he thinks the planting plan will be received favorably. Mr. Lopez stated that it would be worthwhile to compost around some of the existing trees. Mr. Syphard stated that he would like to develop a maintenance plan for some of the other plantings in the Town, such as South Main Street. He stated that the elms at Rockfield Manor have not been addressed for a few years, and that trimmer damage is visible. Mr. Syphard stated that 8' mulch rings should be put in place. Mr. Syphard would like to begin some of these maintenance projects in the spring.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

November 14, 2012

The regular meeting of the Tree Committee was called to order on Wednesday November 14, 2012 at 4:30 p.m. at the Department of Planning, 705 E. Churchville Road, Bel Air, Maryland.

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Robert Syphard, Senior Planner
Susan Burdette, Town Commissioner
Joan Suitt, Recording Secretary

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the October 10, 2012 meeting were approved as submitted.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Memorial Tree Grove

Mr. Syphard pointed out the location in Memorial Grove where one of the trees will be planted and advised contact was made today regarding a second tree. The plaques for the trees will be ordered, and one should be in place before Christmas. Mr. Syphard has not heard anything more on the possible expansion of the Memorial Grove.

Fulford Avenue Planting Plan

Mr. Syphard offered pictures of the Fulford Avenue area in order to give everyone a better view. He displayed a drawing and indicated the area where an existing Bradford pear tree will be taken down.

Mr. Syphard explained there is also a Crab Apple that may not be in the way but can come out to provide additional planting area. He would like to alternate the trees on top of the hill with Ginkgo and/or Sugar Maples and below with Crape Myrtles that will bring more color to the area. Mr. Syphard inquired if anyone had any new ideas.

Mr. Gagnon felt foliage is more reliable than flowering.

Mr. Syphard advised none of these trees will cause visibility problems.

Mr. Syphard will measure it out and place it on paper for viewing at the January meeting. He would like the plan finalized by February and use it for the Arbor Day project.

Mr. Gagnon questioned the amount of wind at the top of the hill. Mr. Syphard stated he didn't see it as a windy area and there are many deciduous trees in the area that have done well. He did mention that soil at the top of the hill is thin from past farming practices and hard for planting.

Mr. Gagnon inquired about the location of the Crape Myrtle. Mr. Glidden advised they would be placed further down the hill in a more protected area. He felt they would bring more color in the summer and should bolster the corridor on this side of Town.

Mr. Syphard noted Lewis Tree Service is in the process of downing trees on Rt. 22 for BGE. He thought this area could offer new planting opportunities for the future.

Mr. Gagnon asked if there were any plans for sidewalks at the Moores Mill Road project. Mr. Syphard explained it is a County project although properties on the south side of the roadway are in Town. He does not know if the County has a formal Landscape Plan. Mr. Glidden stated when doing a road widening, the County has to replace the trees directly affected and the owners receive an in-kind or a fee-in-lieu. Each property owner has the say of what type of tree is planted and where it will be placed.

Mr. Syphard thought this may offer a future opportunity especially in the area of Moores Mill, Conowingo and Hickory roads.

NEW BUSINESS

Plumtree Park Tree Planting Plan

Mr. Syphard referred to previous discussions regarding the beginnings of the planting plan for Plumtree Park and displayed the original concept plan. Mr. Syphard then presented another plan specific to the stream daylighting. The existing planting plan is a reforestation plan but after discussing some improvements to the playground and the Thomas Street walkway, it has been decided to treat the planting area as a "park" plan. Mr. Syphard advised the committee will begin developing a tree planting plan and requested members to consider appropriate tree species. He thought it best to keep the bulk of the plantings on the southwestern side of the stream. Mr. Syphard hopes to have a final plan in place by March/April in order to plant next spring.

Mr. Gagnon asked if the reforestation was an issue. Mr. Syphard noted no reforestation is required. It has been decided to concentrate on the proposed walkway and other amenities to create a functioning urban park.

Mr. Glidden inquired about the sidewalk. Mr. Syphard remarked that the Committee can orchestrate the best place to put trees based on the stream with the walkway design and construction occurring afterward.

Commissioner Burdette inquired about the history of the park and how it got the name. Mr. Syphard stated he is not certain but it is the head waters of Plumtree stream course. Commissioner Burdette will research it.

Mr. Syphard advised there is a lot to think about regarding the two planting projects. Money is available to cover both projects.

Mr. Syphard asked if anyone knew of any local firms that operate a tree spade. Mr. Gagnon advised he had a 36" spade. Mr. Gagnon recommended contacting Randy Childress of Delta Tree Movers and to have any tree balled and burlapped if moved a long distance.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 p.m.
