

## Forest Conservation Advisory Committee

### Minutes

February 21, 2012

Prepared by: Michael Norton

#### ATTENDEES

##### Members

Andrew Der  
Kim Knox  
David Kuykendall (DPS), ex officio  
Dan Landry  
Brett Linkletter (DPWT), ex officio  
Caren Madsen  
Laura Miller (DEP), ex officio  
Jeff Schwartz  
Linda Silversmith  
Ginny Barnes  
Mark Buscaino  
Michael Norton  
Doug Sievers (WSSC), ex officio  
David Plummer (MSCD), ex officio

##### Absent members

Ken Ferebee  
Katherine Nelson, (M-NCPPC), ex officio  
Kevin Smith  
Dan Snyder  
Clark Wagner

##### Others attending

Members of Washington Gas  
Members of Forest Glen Park  
Stan Edwards, DEP staff

#### MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 pm.

The minutes from the January 2012 meeting were approved. The motion to approve was by made Jeff Schwartz and seconded by Caren Madsen.

- I. Announcements/Procedural Matters
  - a. Boards, Committees & Commissions (BCC) Meeting: Members suggest that The Water Quality Advisory Committee (WQAC) should be speaking with the Forest Conservation Advisory Committee (FCAC) prior to writing about forest related issues.
  - b. Quiz: Where is largest tree in MD located – Dickerson Conservation Area
  - c. Tours: A reforestation and big tree tour is being scheduled for a Tuesday in the future. FCAC will tour reforestation installed as part of the Inter County Connector (ICC).

- d. Announcements: Movie – *Taking Root* is being shown on April 22, 2012 at the American Dance Institute.

## II. Presentation: Forest Glen gas leak

- a. Forest Glen (FG) Resident Barbera Schubert presented her powerpoint presentation on the gas leak that has been associated with deaths of up to 14 mature trees in her community.
- b. Bob Lickley, gas leak specialist from Massachusetts, presented his data and analysis method for detecting gas leaks while driving along public roads and the 3D data it produces.
- c. Channel 9 news covered the controversy on June 29, 2011
- d. New legislation is currently at the State House of Representatives making gas companies responsible for tree damage – Carr Bill
- e. Representatives from Washington Gas (WG) were present to explain that if there was conclusive evidence that gas leaks killed the trees then replacement would be provided.
- f. WG stated they have a 24/7 gas response number for leaks and every report is followed up onsite
- g. FCAC had several questions for WG and FG with responses:
  - i. WG – there is no data that assesses the damage to trees by gas leaks
  - ii. WG- no conclusive evidence gas kills trees single handedly kills trees. FCAC – WG should look into funding research
  - iii. FCAC – is WG up on current gas leak detection equipment? WG currently has gas leak detection equipment but maybe not that of private contractors like Bob Lickely.
  - iv. FCAC – were plant pathologist, arborist, tree specialist brought in? Why only gas leak specialist to determine cause of tree death? WG – no specialist. FG – no specialist.
  - v. FCAC – what are the different levels of leaks that determine when leaks are repaired? WG – Will provide data
- h. Public Comment:
  - i. Gas company should fund studies of tree depth associated with gas leaks

- ii. Are there a greater amount of methane levels around trees that area dead? WG  
–levels can be provided

### III. New Business

#### a. Carr Bill

- i. FCAC determined this bill should be reviewed and recommend support if applicable
- ii. 1<sup>st</sup> draft of House Bill due march 26th

#### b. Future tracking of legislation

- i. Monthly meetings do not allow FCAC to quickly discuss and prepare positions on legislation.
- ii. Subcommittee made up of Laura Miller, Ginny Garnes, Brett Linkletter, formed to track upcoming and pending legislation that affects the FCAC.
- iii. Assumes voting and discussion can be accommodated through email to stay current and move quickly.

### IV. Meeting adjourned at 9:03 pm