

Forest Conservation Advisory Committee

Minutes

January 17, 2012

Prepared by: Ken Ferebee

ATTENDEES

Members

Mark Buscaino
Ken Ferebee
Kim Knox
David Kuykendall (DPS), ex officio
Dan Landry
Caren Madsen
Laura Miller (DEP), ex officio
Katherine Nelson, (M-NCPPC), ex officio
Michael Norton
David Plummer (MSCD), ex officio
Jeff Schwartz
Linda Silversmith
Kevin Smith

Absent members

Ginny Barnes
Andrew Der
Brett Linkletter (DPWT), ex officio
Norman Mease
David Post
Dan Snyder
Bryan Straathof
Clark Wagner

Others attending

Stan Edwards, DEP
Holly Thomas, Montgomery Parks
Jeanne Kavinski, Montgomery Parks
Herb White, Montgomery Parks
David Bisnera, Montgomery Parks
Jerry Pasternae, Pepco
Martha Lewis

MINUTES

Meeting started at 7:08 pm

Stan Edwards gave committee members an update on the Forest Conservation Bill revision. The concept remains the same that was presented during the October meeting by Bob Hoyt. The mitigation based on square footage of canopy removed from development sites has not been removed. If you don't have to get a sediment control permit then the bill doesn't apply. Working on legal language now then it will go to the County Executive. The FCAC should get a look at it then.

University of Vermont county tree canopy analysis is now available on the web site www.montgomeryplanning.org.

Committee meeting dates will remain the 3rd Tuesday of each month except August and December which have no meeting scheduled.

Holly Thomas, Senior Urban Forester, Montgomery Co. Parks did a presentation on MNCPPC Urban Tree Stewards Program. Program is broken down into several areas of emphasis:

Comprehensive Tree Care Program – Outreach

- 24/7 emergency response to fallen trees
- Remove hazard trees – replace trees – have own nursery – replaced more trees in 2011 than removed
- Green waste recycled

Tree Inspection Program – goal is 100% of park trees inspected annually. Only 20% covered in FY11

Tree Steward Volunteer Program

- Increase public safety, awareness, develop invested partnership

Urban Tree Steward – developed for each park (park is either selected or assigned)

- Scout, record, and report
- Training – 2 evenings, ½ day on Saturday – 2 classes conducted in FY11
- Increased monitoring of parks to 36% from 20%.
- 35 work requests in 23 parks in FY11

Goal is a tree steward for every park – 50% of parks monitored by FY13

Committee discussed speakers for upcoming meetings in February and March

One Committee member proposed the idea of using the committee's enabling legislation to evaluate the committee's performance and to develop future action plans. Gaps could be identified in what the FCAC has done and issues to address could be identified. This was an idea for the April meeting.

Discussion followed on the possibility of having a presentation on the county Big Tree Program and the possibility of setting up a field trip for the May meeting. Meeting may have to occur early in the day to accommodate a field trip.

Discussion followed about field trips to look at big trees, reforestation sites, and other topics.

Dr. David Myers, University of Maryland professor, was suggested as a possible speaker in June to give presentation on public perceptions of natural resources.

Committee chairman asked if there were any comments or changes for the November, 2011 meeting minutes. No changes were brought forth. A motion was made to approve the minutes which was seconded by another committee member. The November, 2011 minutes were approved.

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting which was seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.