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 Lickley.

   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 are dead? W.G.
   levels can be provided

III. New Business
   a. Carr Bill
      i. FCAC determined this bill should be reviewed and recommend support if
         applicable
      ii. 1st 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