

Forest Conservation Advisory Committee
Notes
November 17, 2020

ATTENDEES

Members

Carole Ann Barth
Dan Landry
Laura Miller (DEP), ex officio
David Myers
Chris Myers (DPS), ex officio
Katherine Nelson, (M-NCPPC), ex officio
Doug Sievers (WSSC), ex officio

Absent Members

Brett Linkletter (DPWT), ex officio
Frank Parker
Jeff Schwartz
Matthew Wessel

Other Attendees

Frank Dawson, DEP

Notes

The Committee met as scheduled on November 17, 2020, virtually in a Teams meeting. The Committee briefly reviewed the status of pending revisions to the Forest Conservation Law, Bill 36-20, including the Committee's request to update the enabling legislation. The bill and the Committee's request are moving along albeit slowly.

The discussion primarily focused on the steps included in identifying and then codifying a 'county tree'. The steps identified include:

1. Develop criteria to select a tree species
 - a. Do we want to consider a species or a specific tree with a history (like the Linden Oak)
 - b. The following criteria have been identified:
 - i. A native species
 - ii. Consider ecological value
 - iii. Likely adapted to climate change
 - iv. History in the County, a witness tree
 - v. A large-tree species
 - vi. A long-lived species
 - vii. Local cultural uses
2. Host discussions with stakeholders – we would likely invite a
 - a. Montgomery County Forestry Board (likely the first group we reach out to)
 - b. Tree subcommittees within local jurisdictions (David has contact info)
 - c. Friends of ... non-profits
3. Identify a timeline, use dates of significance (Arbor Day Proclamation)
4. Submit a bill to the County Executive and County Council
5. Attend public hearings and committee work sessions
6. After enactment of code, reach out to students for artwork of selection

The Committee agreed to meet in December to continue planning. This meeting was postponed until January 19, 2021.