

Minutes
Chevy Chase Environmental Committee Meeting
Thursday, January 18, 2007

I Call To Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 PM with the following members in attendance.

Vicky Taplin
Ruth Fort
Coralee Hoffman
Linda Wright
Duncan Kirk
Joan Rood
Michael Payne
Rob Enelow- Council Liaison

II. TREE ORDINANCE BROCHURE

The committee discussed the draft of a brochure which had been prepared by Vicky Taplin designed to provide information to the town residents about the more stringent tree ordinance which has been in effect since last February. The objective is to have some type of informational pamphlet/brochure developed as quickly as possible which would then be widely distributed through various mechanisms to the town residents. The goal is to raise the awareness and understanding of all residents about the tree ordinance and help residents understand how to comply with the ordinance. The committee agreed to review the draft within two weeks and provide comments directly to Vicky. Following Committee agreement, the draft would be shared with other interested committees such as Long Range Planning as they consider open space and other relevant matters, Land Use Committee, Community Relations Committee and Climate Protection,

In conjunction with the discussion surrounding the draft brochure the Committee requested more information on how the Tree Ordinance is enforced and exactly which trees are protected and how and when permits can be obtained. Who does a town resident call should there be a concern or need for a quick resolution on an activity impacting trees associated with a construction project? The question was also raised about trees that are not covered by any development plan under the Tree Ordinance but rather an individual resident impacting a tree on their property. There was some confusion over this aspect of the ordinance that needed clarification. On a related topic, concern was expressed that the ordinance did not seem to address the issue of someone cutting down a large number of trees in an area/individual property that could adversely affect the tree canopy.

It was suggested that consideration be given toward having a representative from the US Green Building Council give a presentation to several related committees that are working on issues such as trees, water, global warming, communications, long range planning to mention a few. USGBC has a LEED rating system that could be of interest and/or benefit the committees working on matters of environmental concern and proper

building techniques. It was also recommended that Dave Walton be invited to the next meeting to discuss the tree ordinance. Michael Payne and Rob Enelow would meet with Mr. Walton prior to the meeting to learn more information about current enforcement of the Tree Ordinance.

III. COMMITTEE COORDINATION

The Committee briefly discussed the mandate of other committees established by the Town and the need to coordinate activities and projects as much as possible to reduce duplication of efforts and to ensure the work of the committees is providing as much benefit to the residents as possible and in a cost effective manner. There was agreement to contact and work with other committee chairs as appropriate and invite other committees to meetings and relevant programs

IV. TREE INVENTORY

The committee discussed the need to have a comprehensive tree inventory for the town and there appeared to be substantial information already available within the town offices. Michael Payne agreed to find out more details about what information exists, where the gaps exist and what steps should be taken to complete an inventory and how the data could be used to assist the committee. He would report back at the next meeting.

V. ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION

The committee discussed the possibility of holding some type of event or celebration around Arbor Day which is April 27 to help call attention to the Tree Ordinance. Ideas discussed included tree plantings on Saturday the 28 either in select block type events or perhaps at a central location with a focus on getting children involved as well as adults to help spread the word on the value and importance of trees and the Tree Ordinance. This idea was supported by the committee and discussion would take place with Town officials to determine appropriate options.

VI. NEXT MEETING

The committee agreed to meet again on February 20 at 7:30 in the Leland Center Conference room. Before adjourning, Rob Enelow indicated that the Environment Committee should also be looking at the Water Ordinance and considering ways to help inform Town residents on this initiative as well in the coming months.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM

Minutes prepared by Michael Payne,