

**Town of Chevy Chase
Environment Committee
Minutes of 11/27/07 Meeting**

Attendees: Vicky Taplin, Duncan Kirk, Linda Wright, Ruth Fort, Coralee Hoffman,
Missy Goldberg, Tom Heath, Joan Rood, Rob Enelow
Guest: Dave Walton

1. Tree Sub-Committee

- a. The Committee discussed the tree planting policy that the Town Council recently approved. The policy instructs the Town staff to plant trees in the right-of-way over residents' objections. Dave Walton stated the staff needs guidance on how to implement the policy. His questions were as follows:

- What constitutes a good reason for not having a tree planted?
- What if a resident has a good reason for not having a tree planted?
- Should there be an appeals process when a resident's reason is rejected by the Town staff?
- How many new trees are enough -- is one in front of each house, where possible, enough?

The Committee decided to have the Tree Sub-Committee work with the Town staff for a proposal for conducting a tree inventory. The Committee felt a tree inventory is necessary to develop a comprehensive tree plan to address questions like how many trees should be in the right-of-way. The preliminary objectives for such a tree plan are as follows:

- To fill in gaps in the Town's tree canopy;
- To create Town aesthetics;
- To replace old or damaged trees;
- To mitigate water runoff.

- b. The Committee also discussed plans to encourage planting of trees on private property. The Committee noted that the Town has a tree dedication program, but there are few requests under the program. Tom Heath circulated information about a program under which the city of Annapolis, Maryland gave trees to residents. The Committee also discussed allowing Town residents to purchase trees at the price the Town pays. The Committee decided the Tree Sub-Committee would work on an incentives plan to encourage tree planting.
- c. The Committee decided to recruit additional members for the Tree Sub-Committee.

2. Water Ordinance -- The Committee reviewed a proposed information piece on the water ordinance. This article, when complete, will be circulated to Town residents. Joan Rood, Scott Henderson, and Michael Payne will continue to work on the article.
3. Additional Topics for 2008 -- The Committee brainstormed on potential additional topics to tackle in 2008. The proposed topics were a pesticide policy and a tree maintenance plan.

Next Meeting -- December 18, 2007