

Mayor Tracey Furman

**Council Member Darin Bartram
Council Member Nate Engle**



**Council Member Conor Crimmins
Council Member Ann Lichter**

**Meeting Notes
Greenscape Committee
Wednesday, December 7, 2022, 1 pm
Kensington Town Hall**

Attendees: Beth Pierce, Alison Oppenheim, Gloria Capron, Helen Wilkes, Alex Marini, Assistant to the Town Mgr, Tracey Furman, Mayor, Tim Willard, Von Gurney, Katherine Wood, Matt Hoffman, Town Mgr

1. Tree Inventory

- On the topic of inventory, Matt suggested our time would be better spent inventorying the trees in all our parks and identifying any possible champion trees. Matt thinks the Town has a good handle on the street trees now that Alex has been certified and is managing the program. Alison and Katherine will proceed with a tree inventory of the town parks.

2. Promoting Care and Planting of Trees on Private Property

- Since much of the town's tree canopy is on private property, the group discussed an outreach and education effort to encourage care and planting of trees to preserve and enhance the tree canopy.
- We discussed and agreed that Greenscape should contribute an article to the Town Journal educating residents on the importance of trees and how to maintain them.
- Katherine Wood will prepare an article for Jan/Feb Journal on the Weed Warrior program.
*Katherine, Beth and Alison have either completed the certification or close to completing. Ann is starting certification.

3. Other ideas:

- A long-term project would be to create a TOK book on trees that can be delivered to each household and available online. Topics could include: maintenance, picking the right species, Town Parks tree inventory, champion tree, why we need trees, how to identify a tree, trees in the right of way vs trees on private property, weed warrior program, Historic District trees, resource listing....etc. **NOTE:** The county has created an online tree [care guide](#). There is also an [online tree map](#) for the county, and lots of other resources that you can access from the [Tree Montgomery](#) site. The TOK resource could be digital/online for ease of updating.
- Participating in the Book Festival with an Arbor Day table; having a table at the Farmer's Market.
- Have the Town create a tree grant or rebate for residents to plant new trees on their property. **NOTE:** Before pursuing a town specific rebate program, we should publicize and promote

use of the County's "[Tree Montgomery](#)" program. The county will install native shade trees for **free** on private property, and do follow up inspection and care visits. See details on the program [here](#).

- There was also some discussion about maintaining the Howard Ave Park and the need for additional volunteers to help with weeding the strip next to the driveway/Modern Mobler furniture store. The group would also like to encourage community members to harvest the herbs.

4. Action Items:

1. Katherine and Alison will proceed with tree inventory in town parks.
2. Katherine will submit an article on Weed Warriors to the next Town Journal to recruit more local residents into the program.
3. We need volunteers to work on other articles for the Town Journal about Tree Montgomery program, tree care, etc. Let Ann know if you'd like to help with this.
4. Ann will follow up with Von to see if she was able to talk to the "Tree Care 101" folks about doing a training with Kensington residents in the spring.
5. Alison will organize a spring and summer wedding session for sections of Howard Ave Park.
6. Next Meeting: **Jan. 25th at 7:30pm.**

Adjourn