

Mayor Tracey Furman

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



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

**Greenscape Committee Meeting
Thursday, Feb. 2, 7:30pm
Town Hall**

Attendees: Helen Wilkes, Beth Pierce, Gloria Capron, Ann Lichter, Tracey Furman

1. Tree inventory and Street Tree Planting Updates

Tree inventory

- Katherine and Alison will begin tree inventory in town parks shortly. Alex is providing maps. They may need to wait for some leaves to come out to assist with tree identification.

Street tree planting

- The town just completed the winter planting of street trees. This January, 41 trees were planted.
- North side - 5, West side - 3, South side (east of Connecticut and south of the train tracks) - 33
- The majority of last year's plantings were on the north and west side.
- The town also replaced six trees that died within the first year of planting (they were replaced for free under the nursery's warranty). Three on the north side, two on the west side, and one on the south side.

2. Weed Warriors update

- The recent Weed Warriors event along Silver Creek near Clum Kennedy Park was very well attended. Around 20 people or so attended and a lot of progress was made on vines that were choking trees.
- Please save the date for upcoming Weed Warrior events on Saturday, February 18 from 2 to 4pm and on Saturday, March 11 from 2 to 4 pm.
- No previous experience is necessary as we will have experts on hand to guide us on removal of non-native invasive vines.
- Our focus is saving trees on Montgomery County's Silver Creek stream valley that runs along Kensington Parkway.
- The goal is to do these events every month.
- We discussed some concern about doing so in the summer months, when ticks, poison ivy, etc. are out. Will discuss plans with Katherine and ask about Weed Warriors protocols.

3. Community Education

- Town Journal article brainstorm
 - Upcoming journal article will talk about street trees program; describe right of way with picture - could do atlas picture of house. Katherine has already drafted the article and it's under review with town staff.
 - Hopefully can advertise upcoming Tree Care 101
 - Next article could cover tips on caring for the trees - ivy example (picture, and what to do), don't do volcano of mulch and explain why it's bad for the tree, tips on how to identify your trees and plants (mention apps) ; watering for trees – especially at very beginning of the life of the tree. Beth and Gloria volunteered to help with this next article.

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- Perhaps a future article could talk about invasive plants - where to find out if you have an invasive in your yard; how to get access to native plants; what are natives and why are they important.
- Tree Care 101 in spring
 - Clum-Kennedy, Beth's yard maybe other nearby yards
 - Von looking at dates in March or April.
- Online resources
 - Interest in creating a Greenscape Landing page
 - Ann will talk to Alex
- Table at Day of Book or Farmer's Market
 - April 23rd is Day of Book
 - Last year the Greenscape Committee collaborated with Warner Presbyterian's sustainability committee; both had tables at the festival. The committee had info related to composting and plants/trees to give away.
 - This year maybe could combine with Sustainable Kensington.
 - *Please let us know if you are interested in organizing a table at Day of Book.*

4. Other

- A question was raised about disposal of Christmas Trees and whether they were treated as yard waste for compost. Typically they are picked up by the yard waste crew. Could do some education next year about what to do with Christmas tree disposal (when yard waste truck picks up, etc.).
- A question was raised about whether we could do more in the town to protect healthy, tall trees to preserve the tree canopy. Currently only large trees in the historic district require approval for removal (Historic Area Work Permit is required for grading and removing live trees greater than six inches in diameter). We decided to ask for the Maryland Municipal League's help researching what other municipalities have done.

Next Steps:

1. Tree Care 101: Once we have dates we need to determine the location for the outdoor workshop. We discussed Clum Kennedy Park and nearby residential yards.
2. Town Journal article: Committee members will collaborate on drafting an article on tree care. Beth agreed to write a section on ivy and vines; Gloria will do apps and invasives.
3. Ann will ask the Maryland Municipal League for examples of what other municipalities have done to preserve their tree canopy.
4. Ann will talk to Alex about adding info on town street trees, care of trees, etc. to TOK website.