

**Mayor Tracey Furman**

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



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

**Greenscape Committee Meeting  
May 2, 2023  
7:30pm Town Hall**

Attendees: Helen Wilkes, Tracey Furman, Gloria Capron, Katherine Wood, Yvonne Gurney, Carolyn Morrissey, Ann Lichter

**AGENDA**

**1. Tree Inventory Update**

- Town staff are talking with the University of Maryland (UMD) about engaging UMD graduate students to assist with completing a tree inventory and capturing the tree data in a GIS data format.
- Given the scope of the effort, they would focus first on street trees and it may take more than one student to complete.
- If this does go forward, the town would likely have to pay something towards the cost. We would also need to understand how we could maintain the GIS data once the initial inventory is complete.
- Katherine and Alison would be happy to talk with town staff and the UMD team if this moves forward.
- A few committee members should look at space in Clum-Kennedy to replace dead weeping cherry (along Kensington Parkway). We did lose one of the lilacs.

**2. Weed Warriors Update & Plans**

- There have been several Weed Warrior volunteer events along Silver Creek/Kensington Parkway. You can see all the trees now. The volunteers have removed vines and ivy with a primary focus on saving trees. Invasives that have been cleared: ivy, honeysuckle shrub, Japanese knotweed, mustard garlic, roses.
- We have 15 to 20 people turning up regularly - Kensington now has one of the most active Weed Warrior groups in the County.
- The group has been advised to work on a small area very thoroughly to give the trees that best chance to survive.
- The town has a few certified Weed Warriors who can do work on their own.
- Probably just certified weed warrior events for the next few summer months. Plan is set a meet time 2x a month a meet time for certified weed warriors to work.
- Katherine and Alison would be happy to share tips with town crew on removing invasives (e.g., honeysuckle) from town property.

**3. Sustainable Kensington Plans**

- The Sustainable Kensington team is moving forward with its action plan and submission to earn bronze certification from Sustainable Maryland.

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- Some of the proposed actions overlap with Greenscape work and goals, including: Watershed improvement plan, encouraging homeowners to get Bay-Wise consultation and certification, stormwater management plan, native plants/pollinator gardens.
- We discussed various ways to promote native plants and encourage residents to take advantage of the Master Gardener table at the Farmers Market.

#### 4. Public Education Efforts

- Home Tree Care 101 workshop with Conservation Montgomery was well attended (about 15 people).
- Journal Articles
  - The second article on trees will go out in the next Town Journal. Thank you Katherine for writing it.
  - Gloria and Beth are drafting the next article that will focus on invasives and other tips. (in February meeting Beth agreed to write a section on ivy and vines; Gloria will do apps and invasives).
  - Carolyn offered to work on an article for the next issue that features gardening tips and resources (e.g., Master Gardeners, Smithsonian weekly gardening talk, Washington Gardener Magazine, Native Plant Society).
- TOK Webpage development
  - Carolyn will work with Ann on creating a Greenscape site on the Town website to post information about trees, etc.
  - Tracey suggested we create a new “Sustainability” drop down menu on the TOK website to host info from the SK committee, Greenscape committee, etc.
- KHS is considering doing garden tours again to show different approaches for different spaces.
- The group discussed options for having speakers provide talks in Town, plus other educational resources, including:
  - Hillwood Estate gardener
  - Stormwater Management Course - 3-day course - at Montgomery College (could have town staff also take this class)
  - Stormwater mgmt/water mgmt training for homeowners
- Tree Care Letter – Ask Alex if they have a new handout for the tree that could be given to residents when a new street tree is planted
- Related to the trees that the town provides - highlight the ones that are native -

#### 5. Tree Ordinances

- With help from the Maryland Municipal League, we have compiled sample tree ordinances from municipalities around the state.
- Katherine said she could review them later this summer.

#### NEXT STEPS

1. Katherine and Alison will provide a recommendation on a tree replacement for the dead weeping cherry in Clum-Kennedy.
2. Gloria and Beth will work together on the next Journal article, deadline June.
3. Ann will talk to Alex about providing residents with a tree care letter when a new street tree is planted in front of their house.
4. Carolyn will work with Ann on creating a tree/Greenscape committee site on the TOK website.
5. Carolyn will also work on a Town Journal article with gardening tips.
6. Later this summer Katherine will review the municipal ordinances related to trees.