

## Mayor Tracey Furman

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



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

Greenscape Committee Meeting Notes  
10/11/23

Chair: Ann Lichter

Attendees: Helen Wilkes, Carolyn Morissey, Alison Oppenheim, Gloria Capron, Mayor Tracey Furman, Assistant Town Manager Alex Marini.

### 1. Update on Tree Canopy

- Alex Marini provided an update on street tree planting and maintenance in the town. This planting season there are only about 10 on the list to replace. Trees will be planted on Lexington and Plyers Mill.
- A local Cub Scouts group will plant a tree in St. Paul Park. Stadler will donate a tree and help the troop plant it.
- The group discussed whether the Town could promote a rebate or discount program for Town residents to get access to trees to plant in their yards (e.g., range of trees like those offered through the street tree program).
- The County Native Shade Tree program provides large native shade trees.
- Alex will check with Stadler to see if we could arrange a program. Could pair it with the County Native Shade Tree program.

### Tree Inventory

- The Town is planning to partner with University of Maryland students to conduct a tree inventory, starting with Town Parks. It could cost \$6k - \$10k - still in discussions.
- Town would get access to online GIS data system to maintain inventory. Town staff could then work with Greenscape Committee volunteers to expand the inventory and maintain it.
- Carolyn volunteered to look into getting tree tags for certain Town trees.

### Resident Education - Trees

- Alex will look into having a "Greenscape/Trees" drop down under Residents page on the Town website. We can add information about street trees program and the educational articles from our Town journals.
- Reminder to residents: don't create mulch volcanoes at base of tree. If residents see this on street trees or see a street tree that needs attention, they can make a service request to Town staff (send a picture).
- Master Gardener's table at the Farmer's Market can add talking points about tree maintenance and the street tree program.

### 2. Weed Warriors Update

- Weed Warriors volunteers continue working on Silver Creek bed between Frederick and Kent. There are a bunch of native trees on both sides that they are helping by cutting vines (porcelain berry, ivy) and removing Japanese honeysuckle.
- Seeing native shrub seedlings come up - put cages around it.

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- Will check with team lead to see if we can do some maintenance down by Cabin Park since we started there a year ago.
- Need to have some Christmas trees removed that were thrown over the fence; supposed to leave trees out for pick up.

### 3. Town Parks Updates

#### Warner Circle

- County has been moving dead branches into this one section. Doesn't appear to be a brush habitat for wildlife, concern about weeds/porcelain berry - also health of trees because it's piled up against the trunks
- Tracey to follow up with County to address this.

#### Clum-Kennedy & Reinhardt

- Getting approval/county permit for electrical in the park - then we can do something about covering up the stands.
- At least two dead boxwoods in Clum-Kennedy - transplanted and didn't do well
- Let gardens sit for a year or two, so this Spring go back and see what's working and what needs to be done in the fall (meet with Debbie)

#### Rain Garden - Ernest Park

- Alison is working hard on creating a rain garden - at Connecticut near Ernest Memorial Park - removing invasives.
- Two Holly trees -not doing well - Town will follow up.
- Trees in Ernest Memorial Park are now so large that flags get stuck in tree branches - Should we remove flagpoles, lower them, so you can see them, or trim the branches? Committee will look at site and discuss.

### 4. Garden ideas connected to Sustainable Kensington

- Sustainable Kensington committee is interested in promoting native plants, pollinator gardens in Town as well as creating insect hotels and pursuing Bee City certification. Since Greenscape committee shares same interests, probably will create a joint work group between our town committees to work on this.

### 5. Miscellaneous

- Summit & Knowles Townhouse development
  - Ann to inquire with Matt whether we can still review and discuss the plantings - could have done a rain garden - was there a landscaping plan approved by the County?

### 6. Action Items

1. Alex will check with Stadler to see if we could arrange a discount/rebate program for residents to plant trees.
2. Carolyn volunteered to look into getting tree tags for certain Town trees.
3. Alex will look into having a "Greenscape/Trees" drop down under Residents page on the Town website. We can add information about street trees program and the educational articles from our Town journals.
4. Alison will check with Weed Warriors lead to see if the group can do some maintenance down by Cabin Park.
5. Tracey will talk to County about removing brush from Warner Circle.
6. Committee members to look at flagpoles at Ernest Memorial Park and consider what changes to make.
7. Committee will identify members to create workgroup with Sustainable Kensington to work on pollinator gardens, native plants, etc.