

**Mayor Tracey Furman**

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



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

Greenscape Committee mtg  
2/8/24

Tracey Furman, Carolyn Morrissey, Alison Oppenheim, Katherine Wood, Helen Wilkes, Beth Pierce, Ann Lichter

**1. Updates**

• Weed Warriors

- New dates out for the year. Have been posted on town listserv plus past volunteers get direct email.
  - Save the dates for upcoming events:
  - Thursday, Feb 1, 9 am to 11 am
  - Saturday, February 10, 10 am to noon
  - Sunday, February 18, 2 pm to 4pm
  - Thursday, March 7, 9 am to 11 am
  - Saturday, March 16, 10 am to noon
  - Sunday, March 24, 2 pm to 4 pm
  - Thursday, April 4, 9 am to 11 am
  - Saturday, April 13, 10 am to noon
  - Sunday, April 21, 2pm to 4 pm
  - Thursday, May 2, 9 am to 11 am
  - Saturday, May 11, 10 am to noon
  - Sunday, May 19, 2 pm to 4 pm
  - Thursday, June 6, 9 am to 11 am
  - Saturday, June 15, 10 am to noon
  - Sunday, June 23, 10 am to noon
  - Saturday, July 20, 10 am to noon
  - Sunday, July 28, 10 am to noon
  - Thursday, August 8, 9 am to 11 am
  - Saturday, August 17, 10 am to noon
  - Sunday, August 25, 10 am to noon
  - Thursday, September 5, 9 am to 11 am
  - Saturday, September 14, 10 am to noon
  - Sunday, September 22, 2 pm to 4 pm
  - Thursday, October 3, 9 am to 11 am
  - Saturday, October 12, 10 am to noon
  - Sunday, October 20, 2 pm to 4 pm
  - Thursday, November 7, 9 am and 11 am
  - Saturday, November 16, 10 am noon
  - Sunday, November 24, 2 pm to 4 pm
  - Thursday, December 5, 10 am noon
  - Saturday, December 14, 2 pm to 4 pm
- Katherine will register one event a month with the county - can recruit from nearby neighborhoods for those events as well.

- Log Cabin at Kensington Cabin Park is the meeting place for all the county registered places; otherwise the meeting place is announced right before the volunteer date/time.
- Volunteers are staying in similar spots to keep cutting back the honeysuckle etc. takes a few years to really get rid of vines
- On Kensington Parkway along Silver Creek, the focus has been from Frederick bridge down to Litledale.
- For high school students, do have SSL hours ..... If over 16 they're okay with tools, otherwise they can't use tools/waivers required.
- Committee members have informed management at The Glen apartment buildings of where the property line is along Silver Creek so that their landscapers at The Glen will not remove shrubs and clippings within right away along creek.
- **Next steps:** The group discussed writing a Town Journal article about the Weed Warriors methods so that residents understand piles are left on the streambank to help with stabilizing it, help with habitat for wildlife, etc.

#### Rain Garden work

- Alison has been working to restore the rain garden that was installed near Ernest Memorial Park area (2006 timeframe) to collect and filter rainwater from Connecticut and Armory area. County provided a lot of native plants and perennials, but has become overgrown.
- Town has planted 6 holly trees to help with screening along Connecticut.
- Alison has placed logs around the edge, took ivies off the trees, native shrubs are coming up.
- **Next steps:**
  - Ann will talk to Alex about having a new sign designed to explain this is a rainscape / protected area (existing sign has deteriorated).
  - Carolyn will work with Alison and Town staff to buy tree and plant labels.
  - Tracey will talk with Matt and town crew about the protected rainscape and show town crew the vegetation we are working to support in that space.

#### • Town Parks

- Upcoming spring maintenance discussed:
  - Get grass seed down in park area along Armory Ave
  - Clum Kennedy - remove some dead boxwood just remove them
- Still waiting on permitting for electricity in town parks
- Alison and John will do maintenance in gardens in Howard Ave Park
- Need someone else to do tidying up of weeds on the other side of train station/tracks
  - Ask Town to make sure that 2x a year pay someones comes in to clean up weeds, etc in parking area on north side of train tracks.
- Dog parade is Saturday April 27th
- The group discussed the idea of doing a Natural History Day in a Town Park. This could feature a geologist, mycologist, arborist, etc.
  - **Next Steps:**
    - Park maintenance - have crew remove dead boxwoods at Clum Kennedy; have grass seed put down in park area on Armory (behind Ernest Park).

## 2. Tree Canopy

- U Md project status
  - Still waiting for update from U-Md on collaborating with them on tree inventory.
- Possible program for encouraging residents to plant trees
  - Alex is getting information from Stadler Nursery.
- Tree education (website, Town Journal, etc.)
  - Beth volunteered to put together an article for the Town Journal that shows photos/graphics of Town's tree canopy over time. There is a new Montgomery Parks tree canopy website that uses GIS to show tree canopy over time. Getting new data drop sometime mid-Spring

- Beth might need some assistance from someone on the committee or Town staff to outline town boundaries on the new tree canopy
- Next newsletter will be April issue - out last week in March
  - Carolyn would like to do an article on plant clinic and share that the Master Gardeners are adding a second table on Baywise at the Farmer's Market.
- Municipal ordinances
  - Katherine and Helen volunteered to look at MML information on tree ordinances.
  - The group discussed looking at similar sized communities such as Brentwood to see what they have done.
- Tree City Designation
  - Katherine reminded us we need to maintain our Tree City designation by doing a few things, including:
    - Arbor Day event -
    - Mayoral Proclamation -
  - Greenscapes Committee is the Tree Board for the Tree City designation
  - Tree City also has Growth Awards - Katherine will look at ideas from this b/c Town might be able to do some of this
- **Next Steps:**
  - Beth will work on article using tree canopy website
  - Carolyn will draft article on plant clinic at Farmer's Market
  - Katherine and Helen will review [tree ordinance info](#)
  - Katherine will look into Tree City Growth Awards

### 3. Pollinator/Native Plants

- There is interest in creating a joint workgroup with Sustainable Kensington to focus on pollinator gardens and supporting the use of native plants in yards.
- Carolyn volunteered to look into how we could do a Native Plant sale (model this after what was done in Chevy Chase).
  - Residents can pre-order plants from a pre-approved list, then distribute them at Flinn Park or Howard Park - around Arbor Day. This could be our Arbor Day event.
  - Early May - have info for ordering by end of March for Newsletter - how to order
  - Could also have the Stadler tree program possibility
  - Katherine will also look into doing the tree education - workshop again.
- Ann proposed adding a new program, modeled after the public art/mural program, that would subsidize the creation of pollinator gardens on commercial properties.
  - The group would like to pursue this idea. Carolyn will come up with a proposed budget to support 2 to 3 pollinator gardens in the coming year.
  - Already there are two potential business locations in highly visible locations that have expressed interest:
    - Prevention of Blindness/Look Again shop on Howard Ave
    - New Compass Atelier arts space next to the Post Office
  - Carolyn raised the possibility of engaging the Master Gardeners in the area (including those currently seeking certification) in this effort. In particular, if we collaborated with the new Atelier arts space there is a lot of room to work with and we will need design help (could incorporate art/sculptures and benches too).
- **Next Steps:**
  - Carolyn will explore logistics for Native Plant sale in the spring
  - Katherine will look into another tree care workshop
  - Carolyn will come up with proposed budget for pollinator gardens on commercial properties
  - Carolyn will gauge interest among Master Gardeners on collaborating on pollinator garden design and installation