

**Mayor Tracey Furman**

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



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

June 13, 2024

Attendees: Ann Lichter, Carolyn Morrissey, Beth Pierce, Katherine Wood  
Greenscape Committee Meeting

**AGENDA**

**1. Parks**

- The Committee met at Ernest Memorial Park to observe conditions and discuss ideas for improvements.
- The trees have grown quite large, crowding out the flagpoles and the stone monument, which has algae due to the lack of sunlight.
- The boxwoods in front of the monument block the design of the medallions.
- There are several possible improvements that could be made to increase light and airflow, remove overgrown shrubs, and create a welcoming space of quiet contemplation.
- The committee decided to start with the following next steps:
  - Beth P. will talk to Jason Swain since he was involved in the design and layout of the park in terms of the history of the design and which elements have significance.
  - Ann L. will talk to Mayor Tracey about having Shorb Landscaping or another company come and do some tree trimming, shrub removal, and cleaning the monument.
  - Carolyn M. will consider a low growing plant that could replace the boxwoods that wouldn't block the monument.
- Once the group gathers more info, we may want to consider a more significant effort at this location to freshen up the park which could require a budget and some design assistance.
- After walking around Ernest Memorial Park, we walked through the nearby Rain Garden (buffer along Connecticut north of Ernest Memorial Park) to see the work that Allison O. has done to restore the rain garden and the new holly trees that have been planted by the town.

**2. Review & Updates**

- Tree Care 101
  - The second Tree Care 101 outdoor class hosted by Conservation Montgomery arborist on May 18th was very well received. About 12-15 residents attended.
  - The group started at Howard Avenue Park, then walked to two nearby residential gardens/homes and along the way received guidance on tree care.
  - The arborist made several helpful observations about street trees in need of care that the Committee will pass on to Town Staff.
- Native Plant Sale

- The sale held jointly with North Chevy Chase on June 1st went well. There was a modest turnout. Next time it would be helpful to do more outreach or perhaps move it closer into town. The native plants were quite nice.
- Parks Foundation Native Garden grant
  - Katherine shared that we could pursue a Parks Foundation grant to help subsidize the installation of native plant bioswales at sites like Warner Circle.
- Weed Warriors
  - Katherine shared that Weed Warriors is going strong, though with the heat (and poison ivy), they will reduce the number of volunteer sessions during the summer months.
  - There will be a Kensington Weed Warriors Meet and Greet on Wednesday August 14 at 1.30 pm at Kensington Park. Includes a presentation from Weed Warrior Volunteer Coordinator Corinne Stephen's and refreshments will be served.
- Tree City USA
  - Ann will talk to Alex to make sure we take care of the documentation to maintain our Tree City USA status.

### **3. Planning for the Fall**

- Garden Design/Install
  - Carolyn reported that she has secured approval from Master Gardeners to have the design and installation of gardens at two commercial locations in town listed as approved projects. She has also identified a number of local Master Gardeners who would like to assist with the projects at Compass Art and Prevention of Blindness shop.
  - The Master Gardeners will create designs this summer, install the gardens (with Greenscape Committee help) this fall.
  - Next step:
    - Ann will send emails to the business contacts so that Carolyn can move forward.
- Tree planting/incentives
  - We should circulate info on the tree planting incentives/programs this fall. We can aim for the September Town Journal edition.
    - Carolyn will work with Alex on this
- Town Journal Insert - Tree Care
  - We discussed Helen's suggestion to do an insert on Tree Care in the Town Journal. Last year we published a few articles on tree care in the Town Journal.
  - The committee discussed repurposing this article into an E-blast, and working to get this info on the Town website.
    - Carolyn will work with Alex on this

### **4. Tree ordinance review next steps**

Katherine has been looking at Garrett Park's tree ordinances and notes they have a Tree Board and arborist. Katherine and Helen will continue to review other municipal ordinances and bring findings and recommendations to the Greenscape committee.