

Minutes of the City of Takoma Park Tree Commission

June 9, 2015

By Gresham Lowe

Present: Carol Hotton, Denny May, and Colleen Cordes

Discussion: Welcomed Denny May, new commissioner, and updated him on recent and current issues before the commission. The commission discussed the need to raise awareness in the City about: invasive ivy on trees, the wisdom of mulching trees, with large areas of mulching for large trees, questions about the impact of road salts on trees and other plants due to de-icing in winter, questions about the impact of deer browsing on trees, and concerns about how sidewalk and other construction allows impacts trees' roots and water access. Denny expressed his interest in the commission creatively expanding its outreach efforts to the community, especially including children and families. The group discussed a range of possibilities such as coffees with a guest speaker like Douglas Tallamy of the University of Delaware, working with Brownies and other youth groups, schools, and other community groups to help educate and inspire children and families about caring for trees at home.

Decisions: The commission agreed to organize a tree event, including a tree walk but possibly a larger social aspect to the event, for this fall within Ward 6.

Action Items:

- 1. Pepco:** Colleen will research Pepco issues and report in July, related especially to the question of how solid our memo of understanding will be if Pepco merges with Exelon. (The companies now have the approval from Maryland Public Service Commission but need approval from both D.C. and Delaware, where there are other Pepco customers.) Also, she will check with Todd about whether Pepco has scheduled any work in Takoma Park in 2015 that involves removing trees.
- 2. Urban Tree Canopy Assessment:** Gresham will be getting ward maps for the commission's research and information. Colleen will check in with Todd about the updated analysis Montgomery County will receive and post online soon.
- 3. Outreach:** Denny is not able to make the July meeting but will be developing ideas for new outreach to present to the full commission.
- 4. Permeable sidewalk paving:** Denny will research the environmental aspects of such products as Flexipav, including whether nanotechnology processes and/or nanomaterials are involve, and if so, what the final disposition.
- 5. Fall Tree Event:** Colleen will contact Fred Schultz, City Councilmember for Ward 6.