

**Urban Forestry Commission**  
**July 23, 2020**  
**Microsoft Teams meeting**

**Meeting Summary**

**Attendance**

Phil Klingelhofer, Chair  
Steve Sockwell  
Caroline Haynes  
David Howell  
John Carey  
Kit Norland  
Nat Ames  
Noreen Hannigan  
Teresa Leonardo  
Kate Donohue

**County and State Staff**

Vincent Verweij, DPR  
Jerusalem Solomon, DPR  
Steven Bernheisel, APS  
Nick Rogers, CPHD  
Jim McGlone, VDOF

**Guests**

Tom Arata  
Natasha Atkins  
Larry Wiseman  
Bernard Berne  
Susan Land

**Guests, Commissioners and Staff – Introductions and Sign-in**

The meeting was held online, using Microsoft Teams. The Chair recognized Nat Ames as a new member of the Commission.

**Public Comment**

No public comment.

**Planning in Arlington County – Nick Rogers, CPHD**

Nick Rogers presented on how planning changes occur in Arlington County.

Questions included on:

- Difference between zoning ordinance changes and amendments
- Changing zoning ordinance on native plant gardens
- Reducing the footprint of homes
- Impacts of waivers to zoning amendments
- Reception of major changes
- Interaction with the Missing Middle study.
- State code on zoning
- Interaction with the Chesapeake Bay Ordinance

A letter was proposed to discuss zoning changes with the County Board. It was approved to be drafted, with review through email, to be discussed and approved at the next meeting. A presentation on flooding and stormwater was requested for a future meeting. Staff will work with DES personnel to schedule this, when appropriate.

### **Tree Canopy Fund Changes – Phil Klingelhofer**

The current progress on this project was shared by the Chair and staff. Commissioner Donohue offered to draft a letter for the next meeting to suggest changes.

### **Forestry and Natural Resources Plan – Vincent Verweij**

Staff updated the commission on current progress, and highlighted the NRJAG meeting, which will kick off the project, on August 10.

### **February Minutes and Commission Infrastructure (Work plan, Annual report, Memberships)**

The minutes were approved unanimously.

The Chair asked for volunteers to fill spots on the reports, left by Nora Palmatier, including the Urban Forest Roundtable and Tree Canopy Fund, and the Water and Wastewater Utility Rate Study. Commissioner Norland offered to help with the Roundtable, and Commissioner Donohue with the Tree Canopy Fund.

### **Staff Reports**

Vincent Verweij spoke about storms, Metropolitan Park 6/7/8, and the Virginia Hospital project. A correction was made by Jim McGlone about a report on Spotted Lanternfly in Fairfax. This has not been found in Fairfax County, and this will be corrected in the staff reports.

### **Maintenance:**

- Tree maintenance crews have been working on several after hours “micro storms” The storm on 7/22/20 caused significant power outages, and several trees came down.
- Adam Lipera has inspected several trees for Historic Preservation. Only one dead white oak was permitted for removal.
- We are still seeing the results of last year's drought in our oak trees, and dead trees continue to be found in our parks.

### **Planning:**

*Long range planning:*

- Lee Highway: The existing conditions documents were reviewed by staff, to ensure existing tree canopy was reflected accurately.
- Shirlington GLUP: Comments were received by residents on the GLUP, and integrated into the planning document. You can find it here: <https://projects.arlingtonva.us/plans-studies/general-land-use-plan/special-study-shirlington-village/>

### *Parks*

- Edison – The reforestation planting is doing well as the park is now under construction.
- Lubber Run Community Center – Partial tree planting occurred late Spring and the remainder will be planted this Fall. Dead limbs and trees along the boardwalk will be addressed in the coming weeks.
- Rosslyn Highlands – LDA submission 2 has been submitted and is in review.
- Jennie Dean – LDA and CEP have been submitted and is in review.
- Benjamin Banneker – One of the two transplanted yellow-poplars is thriving, while the other is stressed and in decline. Unfortunately, the one in decline will likely be removed and replaced.
- Bon Air Park – Finalizing a permit to remove the damaged bathroom in the park. This bathroom was damaged by the July 8 storm.

### *Site Plans, Civil Engineering Plans, Administrative Changes*

- New site plans
  - 1735 N Lynn St – International Place – DPR and DES are still in discussion with the applicant who are revising the plans to show improvements to the streetscape and green roof.
  - Arlington View Terrace East (1420 S Rolfe St): Columbia Pike Form-based Code project. Some tree impact, proposing to conserve a section of wooded property. Learn more here: <https://projects.arlingtonva.us/projects/arlington-view-terrace/>
  - 1731 N Veitch St – Landscape Plan and CEP are both in review, but are meeting nearly all their requirements, thus far.
  - 3140 Washington Blvd – Verizon and Wells Fargo Sites – Plans were just received and will be reviewed shortly.
  - Met Park 6/7/8 - Reviewing final civil engineering plans and landscape plans for the buildings, which will have significant rooftop plantings. The park is also close to being final. Check out the new plans here: <https://projects.arlingtonva.us/projects/metropolitan-park-public-space-project/>
  - Merion Pike West – Reviewing new submissions for this form-based code project.
- Existing site plans
  - 4000 Fairfax Dr. This project didn't install three trees, due to a conflict with a duct bank. Options are being explored for replacement.
  - Crystal City Retail. Tree pits are being completed. Trees are being planted with a heavy watering program.
  - The Trove. Tree pits are being installed.

- Market Common – Installing structural cells and tree pits.

#### *Schools:*

- The two ADA spots at Fleet and The Heights schools are getting designs finalized. The Fleet trees impacted will be planted on site, and for The Heights, options are being considered for replacement in large planters.

#### *DES & NC*

- Woodstock Park Stormwater Detention Facility – DES and DPR have agreed upon an option to install a stormwater vault on Park property. Staff are proposing additional trees being saved.
- Sparrow Pond – 90% plans were submitted and are being reviewed. Tree impact is less than anticipated.
- Donaldson Run Tributary B – DES worked with DPR on saving additional trees by regrading an area upstream.

#### *Single Family Development*

- Christina deMariano conducted 16 Preconstruction meetings and signed off 6 Certificate of Occupancy for new residential homes.
- Aftab Hussain is reviewing right-of-way plans and single-family home projects.

#### *County Facilities*

- County staff are discussing how to best approach the demolition of the Virginia Hospital building at 601 S Carlin Springs Rd. Demolition will likely impact trees on the interior courtyards of the building.

#### **Tree Planting:**

- Melissa Gildea is exploring sites for fall planting, and exploring new best practices for tree planting.
- Watering is ongoing, and hopefully helping with some of the hot weather we're experiencing.

#### **Outreach:**

- Adam Lipera presented on trees and historic preservation. You can find his presentation here: <https://projects.arlingtonva.us/plans-studies/historic-preservation/owning-historic-property/heritage-trees/>
- Vincent Verweij presented to the Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia on Forest Health and current practices.

- Parks and Recreation staff met with Tree Stewards to discuss potential volunteer projects.

**Personnel:**

No changes

**Other:**

- A statewide webinar on Virginia’s current tools in tree conservation is being held on July 30<sup>th</sup>, to outline existing legislation for increased conservation.
- A new permitting program is being developed for Arlington County, which will hopefully streamline permit inspections, and reduce confusion in permit compliance.

**Commissioner reports**

Natural Resources Joint Advisory Group (Caroline Haynes)

No report

Park and Recreation Commission (David Howell)

No report

Planning Activities Notification

No report

Lee Highway (Caroline Haynes)

No report

Tree Stewards (Kate Donohue)

No report

Arlington Tree Action Group (Kit Norland)

No report

Northern Virginia Urban Forestry Roundtable (Nora Palmatier)

No report

Tree Canopy Fund (Nora Palmatier)

No report

Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee (Phil Klingelhofer)

No report

Environment and Energy Conservation Commission (Teresa Leonardo)

No report

Virginia Department of Forestry (Jim McGlone)

The Watershed Improvement Plan Phase III to bring Chesapeake Bay into compliance with water quality standards for sediment and nutrient is now in effect. I received tree planting numbers for 2020-2021 on August 18. The totals in WIP III cover 2020-2025 and have been parsed by DOF work areas. The Potomac work area covers Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William counties. These numbers include ALL tree planting – public, private, homeowners etc. I have yet to be briefed, but it is my understanding that the tree planting data is to be reported through VDOF. I will keep you apprised as I learn more. In the meantime, start counting because every stem matters.

Potomac	Urban Planting	# of Trees	56,215	Potomac-Shenandoah
	Forest Buffers	Acres	108	
	Buffers/Fence	Acres	56	
	Afforestation	Acres	126	
	Urban Buffers	Acres	128	
	Forest Canopy	Acres	301	

Water and Wastewater Utility Rate Study Community Advisory Group (Nora Palmatier)

No report

Arlington Public Schools (Jim Meikle)

No report

Virginia Cooperative Extension (Kirsten Ann Conrad)

No report

**New Business**

Commissioner Handler spoke about money being allocated for the W&OD widening project, and is looking for opportunities to engage on this.