

## **Tree Advocacy Committee Meeting Minutes' Continuation**

**May 22, 2025**

### **1. Roll Call**

Members Present: Roxanne Paul, Sandy Shinn, Aditi Chandra, Doug Noble, Lea Giovanniello, John Shults

Absent: Sammy Bryant, Chris Bredehoeft, Ken Foley

Staff Present: Leslie Herman, Matt Fuller

### **2. Public Comment**

Marian Dadkhah briefly discussed:

- Eco-efficient houses and conservation landscaping – Would like CSC to support a Town code change to allow 6-foot invisible see-through netting to be used on private property. Code states only 4 feet is allowed.
- Fairfax County & State of Virginia allow cutting vines/shrubs and applying herbicides to them. Requests TAC to write a letter to Council to allow herbicides to be used in Vienna.
- Deer remediation – The Fairfax County program Wildlife at Risk might be removed. State of Virginia can identify areas for archery. Mariam will send email to Roxanne with more detail. Doug Noble recommended she come to the Planning Commission meeting.

TAC agreed that Public Comments need to be limited to 5 minutes per person.

### **3. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes from the May 8, 2025 meeting were approved with the correction that meetings held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday starting in June will be 1.5 hours in duration, not 2 hours in duration. Note: due to the June 19 holiday, TAC will meet June 12 (2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday).

### **4. Regular Business**

## **TAC Web Page Updates (Tree Advocacy Committee/Town of Vienna) - Add Semi Annual Report**

### **Priorities of TAC Members**

Roxanne Paul requested that members volunteer for tasks. Work sessions can be held to discuss tasks.

- Lea Giovanniello, Sandy Shinn and John Shults - Interested in participating in the Dominion Power Tree Restoration effort. Leslie noted that NOVA Parks, in collaboration with the Town, is urging Dominion Power to preserve as much native vegetation as possible, while acknowledging Dominion's responsibility to ensure grid reliability. The following issues with Dominion Power remain unresolved:
  - Restoration/replanting for the four miles of damaged park in Vienna
  - Develop an updated MOU with Dominion that was provided to Dominion on April 24, 2025.
- Aditi Chandra – Reported that she will be preparing a report on boards and commissions as part of a Madison High School assignment. The report will include information on the CSC and TAC, and she will share a copy with TAC upon completion.
- Doug Noble – Interested in participating in the development of the Urban Management Forestry Plan and involvement with the Street Tree Program.
- Roxanne Pual, Sandy Shinn, Lea Giovanniello – Committed to expanding the tree canopy and preventing further decline, with an emphasis on public education about the importance of vine removal.
- Roxanne Paul, Doug Noble – Develop a resource booklet featuring recommended trees for planting on private property, incorporating visuals and the list of approved species from the Town's website.
- Roxanne Paul – Aim to discourage builders from removing the maximum number of trees allowed by law. Suggested strategies include restricting side-loading garages and requiring soil amendments, similar to practices in Arlington.
- Doug Noble – The Town's Comprehensive Plan should establish ambitious goals that reflect the high standards and objectives of the CSC and TAC.
- John Shults – Plant! Plant! Plant!

## **First Urban Forest Semi-Annual Report**

Roxanne proposed that for the semi-annual report due in July, the following is included. Those members in attendance agreed.

- What we've learned
- What we've done
- What our priorities are
- What we plan our actions to be over the next 6 months

Doug Noble will send annual reports of the Town's Planning Commission to Roxanne, and Roxanne can forward to the committee, so that we can get an idea of what their annual reports are like.

## **Continued Introductions**

Roxanne invited each member to share their reasons for joining TAC, if they had not done so already.

Roxanne: She owns an acre lot, 2/3 of which is wooded. In 2023, a neighbor she had never met secretly hired a tree company to pull back a chain link fence and cut down three of her mature trees: an oak and two tulip trees. Brian Land found out and he and Christina Caplan came and toured the property. This is how she found out about the proposed Tree Conservation Ordinance and TAC. She has a BS in Natural Resources from Cornell and a Master of Natural Resources from Virginia Tech.

John: He is a property lawyer and has been seeing development and its accompany loss of trees all over Vienna and would like to be able to persuade people to do otherwise. He works in the legal department at Hilton.

Doug: He started in landscape architecture, but switched to civil engineering. He now works on transportation for an Engineering Association and works with trees because they are in the right of way.

Matt: He started at Virginia Tech in Computer Science, but then switched to Forestry. He's always been more interested in Environmental Resource Management than harvesting for timber. He really likes taking on the stewardship of trees.

## **5. Other Business**

Leslie Herman stated that, according to the Town Manager, submitting the 6-month report to the Council via email is sufficient.

Roxanne request members to contact her if they cannot attend meetings. TAC needs a quorum in order to make decisions.

Leslie Herman stated that in order to evaluate the effectiveness of the Tree Ordinance enacted in 2014, a review of the relevant properties is needed to verify whether the trees remain. Additionally, a tree canopy assessment should be conducted every five years.

**Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned at 7:50pm.