

DRAFT

Tree Advocacy Committee

Thursday, February 12, 2025

6:30 PM

1. Roll Call

Present: Aditi Chandra (Sr. Student); Roxanne N. Paul (CSC Rep); Ken Foley (Remote); Lea Giovanniello (CSC Rep); Doug Noble (PC Rep); Sandy Shinn; John Shults

Absent: Chris Bredehoeft

Staff Present: Leslie Herman, P&R Director; Matt Fuller, P&R Town Arborist

2. Communication from the Public

Miguel Ordonez (CSC), 804 DeSalle St.

Mr. Ordonez, who volunteers at the Vienna Community Garden, encouraged the planting of fruit trees wherever possible. He also remarked on the Leave the Leaves initiative indicating that he plans to include this information in tours of the Garden.

Susan Becker, 101 Yeonis Circle, SE

Ms. Becker spoke on protecting trees through the Heritage Tree Program as called for in the Code of Virginia. She also remarked on the continued clear cutting of lots despite Town Code, pointing to the loss of several large trees in her neighborhood. Chairperson Paul clarified that conversations with Tim Koski, Urban Forrester, confirmed that developers are allowed to remove trees if they, in turn, contribute to the tree preservation fund. She stressed that TAC will address this issue in the future.

3. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of January 2026 were unavailable.

4. Regular Business

- **Proposals for Town Council Working Session**

Item 1. Discussion included language changes to clarify new and existing sidewalks. Creating opportunities for street trees to be planted during new

development was determined to be a separate issue. A motion was made to include Item 1, as modified, in the proposal.

Motion, John Shults; second, Lea Giovanniello. Motion carried unanimously.

Item 2. Doug Noble raised several issues including terminology not present in Town Code and builders' ability to circumvent Code through shortening driveways (thus reducing frontage). He suggested a discussion with the Planning Commission to consider options. A motion was made to table Item 2. Motion, Ken Foley; second, Doug Noble. Motion carried unanimously.

Item 3. The Committee discussed the existing Fairfax County Land and Tree Conservation Award. The proposed award is designed to encourage developers to save more trees. Language modifications were suggested specific to including landowners as potential recipients and award review committee makeup. A motion was made to include Item 3, as modified, in the proposal. Motion, John Shults; second, . Motion carried unanimously.

Item 4. Sandy Shinn presented a brief overview of jurisdictions with similar programs. Language changes included reference to State Code that allows for this type of program, but does not mandate.

A motion was made to include Item 4, as modified, in the proposal. Motion, Doug Noble; second, John Shults. Motion carried unanimously.

Item 5. John Shults reported on his conversation with Kristen Bousquet, Program Manager, Arbor Day Foundation, to review the program. The cost for each tree would include technical support for an interactive program and management of the process. Planning would begin in the spring with program kick off in September and tree pick up scheduled for October. Ms. Bousquet suggested that a small buy in by resident recipients (\$10-15) has proven to be most successful.

Chairman Paul, with assistance from Jeremy Edwards, Superintendent, Parks and Recreation, will apply for a grant (\$14,000) from the Department of Forestry to purchase the 5-gallon trees. A motion was made to include Item 5 in the proposal as written. Motion, Ken Foley; second Doug Noble. Motion carried unanimously.

Item 6. A motion was made to include Item 6 in the proposal, as written. Motion, John Shults; second, Ken Foley.

John Shults will circulate a final draft the week of February 16. The power point presentation is due to Leslie Herman by March 2 for presentation at the Town Council Work Session of March 9, 2026.

5. Other Business

Matt Fuller confirmed a presentation by Tim Koski, Urban Forester, at the meeting of March 17, 2026 to be held in the Police Station Community Room.

Chairperson Paul reported on the National Wildlife Federation grant of \$125. Jeremy Edwards suggested organizing a separate planting for use of the grant. She will confirm with Jeremy regarding site preparation by Town Staff. A date will be selected by the Committee.

Chairperson Paul reminded the Committee of her expiring first year term. As no specific term limit has been set forth, she volunteered to remain in her current role. The Committee agreed.

Sandy Shinn reported on recent General Assembly legislation, HB549, to reduce the period to meet tree canopy coverage from 20 years to 10 years. The impact of this change will be discussed at the March meeting of the TAC.

The TAC was reminded of the 6-month report due to Council. Chairperson Paul volunteered to draft the report.

Town Clerk, Shelley Kozlowski, reminded the TAC of meeting times specified in Town Code. Chairperson Paul remarked that the current meeting time resulted from a need for more than the one hour specified in Code. A motion was made for the Tree Advisory Committee to meet the third Thursday of each month at 6:30 PM. Motion, Roxanne Paul; Second, John Shults. Motion carried unanimously.

Doug Noble reported that the Planning Commission will refer the Comprehensive Plan to the Council at its next meeting. He also provided insight into the Greenhedges School development plan. A site plan modification passed the Planning Commission in a 4-3 vote while a land use permit was declined in a 4-3 vote. Both results will be forwarded to Council for final determination. The next step for Greenhedges would include an appeal to the Board of Zoning Appeals.

6. Adjournment

Chairperson Paul called for a motion to adjourn at 8:28 PM. Motion, Doug Noble; second, Sandy Shinn.

