



Town of Vienna

Charles A. Robinson Jr.
Town Hall
127 Center Street South
Vienna VA, 22180

Meeting Minutes - Final Tree Advocacy Committee

Thursday, May 22, 2025

6:30 PM

120 Cherry St. SE

Roll Call

Members Present: Roxanne Paul, Sandy Shinn, Aditi Chandra, Doug Noble, Lea Giovanniello, John Shults
Absent: Sammy Bryant, Chris Bredehoeft, Ken Foley

Approval of Minutes

[TAC-25066](#) Approval of the TAC Minutes of May 8, 2025

Regular Business

[TAC-25067](#) Tac Web Page Updates (Tree Advocacy Committee/Town of Vienna)

[TAC-25068](#) Priorities of TAC Members

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:*
 - o *Restoration/replanting for the four miles of damaged park in Vienna*
 - o *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!*

TAC-25069 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.

TAC-25070 Continue 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.

Adjournment

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