

Morgantown Tree Board (MTB)  
Minutes, regular meeting of April 22, 2013

Present: MTB members Dan Brown, Dave Barnett, Katherine Payne, Secretary Jon Weems, Chair Kara Hurst, and city employee Marchetta Maupin.

Chair Kara called the meeting to order at 4:42 in City Council chambers and noted that a quorum was present.

Katherine moved and Dan seconded that the minutes of the March 18, 2013 meeting be approved without amendment. The motion carried unanimously.

Old Business

1. National Arbor Day. Celebration of national Arbor Day April 26 and 27 at North Elementary is on track. Greg will plant two trees with North students on school grounds on Friday. Fourth graders will take small redbud trees (obtained from Clements Tree Nursery) home. Greg and other volunteers will plant more trees on school grounds on Saturday. Greg obtained a grant to purchase seventy trees.
2. Year of the Tree (YOTT) and Your Community Trust options. Kara led discussion of using Your Community Trust to manage possible funds raised from private sources in support of Tree Board projects. This would evidently need to be done through a private, non-profit entity.
3. Tree of the Month. Dan is handling the write-up for April. Jon will do May. Katherine has requested via Pam Queen that TOM articles appear in the Sunday paper. It was agreed that Susan Sullivan could post TOM articles and photos on the MTB web page.
4. Library Trees. Marchetta and Damian Davis considered possible replacement trees in front of the library. The thinking was to replace two of the four removed trees, but the question of funding remains open. Bricks could be removed to make large tree wells. Planted trees would likely have grates rather than tree curbs.
5. Arch Street. Marchetta reported planting four whitebud (*Cercis alba*) in the island between Green and Kingwood. These trees (replacing those recently destroyed) need TLC.

New Business

1. State Arbor Day. Marchetta organized a Burroughs Run area planting, with good help from two BOPARC workers and some MTB members. This marked the third MTB planting in this area plagued by deer damage and rocky/rubble-filled soil. Planted this time were eight large clump serviceberry trees, with a crabapple possibly to be added at some future time.
2. Recent or Upcoming Plantings. Marchetta reported planting a serviceberry at 316 Green and a weeping crape myrtle at Mountaineer Heritage Park. Still to be planted is a conifer. She indicated Green Street residents want more street trees.
3. Tree Inventory. Marchetta and William have checked and done some work on 74 MTB-planted trees. Most work involved pruning away from streets, sidewalks, and signs. Hawthorns on Hawthorn need a lot of pruning. Halesia (silverbell) seems to be a low-maintenance species. Some MTRP trees planted in 2001 are getting up to overhead wires. 124 MTB-planted trees remain to be checked.

4. Needed Work. Marchetta and Damian noted that dead limbs in trees over Aspen Street need to be removed. Trees in Greenmont and South Park also need work, but less urgently. They noted problems with Bradford pears on Grand Street.

5. Working Meetings. Discussion involved possible “working meetings” in which MTB members would prune small trees during meetings, possibly during winter.

The next meeting was set for 4:30 PM Monday, May 20 in Council chambers, because the 27<sup>th</sup> is Memorial Day.

Dan moved for adjournment. Katherine seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:07 PM.

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Jon Weems