

September 5, 2022 Charlottesville Area Tree Stewards, Virtual Board Meeting via Zoom 1:00-2:30 pm

Attending: Robin Hanes, Michelle Cormier, Alison Brill, Penny Kaiserlian, Tim Maywalt, Mary Spear, Kathy Nepote, Mark Zollinhofer, Anne Bentham, Jean Umiker-Sebeok (guest)

Secretary: Alison Brill

The motion was made, seconded, and passed to adopt the minutes of the July 2022 board meeting as submitted.

President's Report: Robin Hanes

Robin told the Board about her recent trip to Alaska where she was honored by having been asked to participate in the recognition of several permanently protected areas in the Tongass National Forest.

The new CATS bumper stickers have arrived. They will be given to members at the fall tree sale. The public will be invited to purchase them for \$5 each.

Preparation for the tree sale on October 1 is well underway. The organizers are considering ideas to improve the flow of buyers in case the sale is as well-attended as the spring sale.

Members have inquired as to the feasibility of recording the membership meetings. The Board is hesitant for a number of reasons, including:

- When the presentations are attended live, there is valuable feedback for the speaker, the ability for members to ask questions, and members are present for the business meeting portion;
- There is currently no space on the CATS website for such large files;
- Speakers may not allow themselves to be recorded; and
- Minutes from the meetings are posted to the website for members to read.

This idea may be investigated further at some point.

It is time to find people to fill several board positions for 2023. Michelle Cormier, Alison Brill, Kathy Nepote, and Robin Hanes (as former president) will remain in their positions. JoAnn Dalley fills the incoming president position. Mary and Tim have completed their two-year assignment as co-chairs of the Education Committee (in fact, completing the term of their predecessor, as well).

Therefore, CATS is taking nominations for President Elect, Education Chair and Communications Chair.

Treasurer's Report: Michelle Cormier

Michelle sent a complete set of financial reports to board members before the meeting.

Today's account balances:

\$8,379 checking account
\$32,135 money market

Year-to-date income amounts to \$28,800 (rounded), including two separate \$500 contributions in July and two recent \$50 donations.

When class starts and fall projects get going, Michelle anticipates greater spending. CATS is currently running under budget.

Payments Michelle made this month:

\$310 bumper stickers
\$175 contractor who set up Moodle
\$24 book for the library purchased by Anne
\$200 2-gallon pots for the plant sale

Kathy is evaluating tabling brochures aimed at kids to purchase as two new members are especially interested in working with children and having more impact in the schools.

The Board decided that CATS should purchase some plastic storage bins.

Tree Commission Report: Mark Zollinhofer

The Tree Commission remains focused on the ongoing revision of the City's zoning ordinances/codes. The Tree Commission fears that its concerns regarding the urban tree canopy will be ignored, particularly with the strong input of developers on the other side of the issue.

Before the new ordinances are adopted some time in 2023, there will be many junctures at which people can voice their concerns to the Council, particularly C'ville Plans Together, a subcommittee. Mark hopes that CATS members will make their voices heard (as individual concerned citizens).

Peggy Van Yahres' letter to C'ville Plans Together has been ignored (Robin forwarded Peggy's letter to the Board for their information).

A coalition of neighborhood organizations, Citizens for Responsible Planning, has written to the Council about their concerns regarding city planning. They have also published a letter in the *Daily Progress*. Anne will forward information about this group to Mark.

Guest Jean Umiker-Sebeok presented her ideas on using grass roots efforts among local biophilic groups to organize around green infrastructure issues, similarly to how various groups have associated in order to amplify their concerns about public housing.

Education Committee: Tim Maywalt and Mary Spears

Mary forwarded to the Board the list of the next few months' membership meeting speakers. Speakers are scheduled through March 2023.

This year's training class is going well so far, with 33 trainees. A few of the new trainees attended that last education committee meeting.

Tim's tree basics presentation on choosing, planting, and caring for trees is scheduled for September 20.

September includes several tree walks (see TIF).

Communications: Penny Kaiserlian

New class members will be added to the membership list. Otherwise, this is a quiet period for the communications committee.

Projects Committee: Kathy Nepote

The projects committee is busy now that the hot weather has broken:

- At least one, and perhaps two, work days will be held to clean up and mulch at VDoF prior to the fall tree sale
- CATS will participate in the Day of Caring on September 21, leading a walk, weeding, mulching, removing invasives
- At some time, CATS will plant 20 new trees at Mint Springs
- The project at 10th and Page aims to plant 10-12 additional trees
- CATS will have a table at the Crozet Arts and Crafts Festival on October 8-9

Robin added that tree planting at in the park next to Riverview where the Buddhist group meets is on hold for now.

Robin will follow up with a student at UVa who started a nonprofit called plantingshade.org. Apparently, he has planted 1,000 trees in Richmond.

Continuing and New Business:

Tim asked that the Board convene a special meeting to address the issue of memorial trees.

Robin announced that Elise Burroughs is taking over Martha Orton's former role as digital archivist.

Toine has informed Robin that the hard copy archive consists of board meeting minutes and the president's summary of the year from the December event. The hard copy archive is housed in the warehouse.

Robin discussed the email she had forwarded to the Board regarding "Trees and the Law" (attached). Another site of some interest is maintained by Virginia Tech, "Virginia Tree Ordinance Database," which is in the CATS online library.

Associate Members:

There is a question as to whether *Barbara White* should be listed as a member or an associate member. She'll be asked.

Ed Yates – should be removed since he moved away.

Tim suggested that longtime presenters at the CATS training classes be associate members:

Ellen Powell

David Powell

Katlin Mooneyham Dewitt

Steve Carroll

He will send his list of nominations and their contact information along with the rationales for nominating them.

Steve Gaines is another possible associate member for future consideration.

The Board may decide to plant a memorial tree in honor of Tony Russell.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Alison Brill

APPENDIX

From Robin Hanes

Trees and Neighbors and Law

Jim Cox, Attorney with Michie Hamlett

This is a common issue and I think a good attitude and communications are often the best move.

1. If a tree falls from your neighbor property onto your property, you are responsible for the cleanup and removal from your property
2. If a tree falls from your property onto your neighbor's property, they are responsible for the cleanup and removal from their property
3. The one exception is if the Tree was obviously diseased or a danger and it would have been negligent not to take the tree down---then it may fall on the negligent party.

If a tree damages a structure on your property, call your insurance agent.

VA and Tree Law, a good website 8'22:

<https://tingen.law/2018/brief-overview-virginia-tree-law/27389/>