

**The Town of Leesburg  
Leesburg Tree Commission  
MEETING MINUTES  
Tuesday, July 23, 2024 7:00PM  
Town Hall, Lower-Level Conference Room II**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Earl Hower (24), Chair  
John Groothuis (26), Vice Chair  
Frank Schneider (26), Member  
Tara Holt (26), Member  
Phil Marshall (24), Member  
Joe Garnreiter (24), Member

**ELECTRONIC PARTICIPATION:**

N/A

**ABSENT:**

Elizabeth Welch (24), Member

**COUNCIL PRESENT:**

N/A

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Noble Atkins, Urban Forester, Commission Liaison

**PUBLIC PRESENT:**

Chris Spight, Northern Virginia Tree Experts  
Julie Seaman, Mosby Drive resident

**1) CALL TO ORDER/ROLLCALL**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Hower at 7:05 pm.

**2) APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Mr. Hower motioned to approve the July 23, 2024 agenda.

Motion to approve: Marshall

Second: Garnreiter

Carried: 6-0-1

**3) APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 18, 2024 MINUTES**

Mr. Hower motioned to approve the June 18, 2024 minutes.

Motion to approve: Schneider

Second: Groothuis

Carried: 4-0-2-1

**4) PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mr. Spight commented that SLF has been observed throughout Fairfax since last month. Mrs. Seaman expressed concern about the stream restoration project behind her home.

**5) COUNCIL COMMENTS**

N/A

## 6) STAFF COMMENTS

Mr. Atkins brought mockups and samples of Vented Root Aeration Matting and Porous Flexible Pavement and updated the Commission about the history and current uses of these Tree Preservation BMP's. He also tabled a discussion about creating a Tree Removal Permit Application Process for the Town. Mr. Atkins informed the Commission that a Capital Projects staff member will present the Town Branch Stream Restoration plans to the Tree Commission at the August meeting. And finally, Mr. Atkins shared the Town's attempt to halt "volcano mulching" by changing the current mulching spec, to "maintain 2-3" of mulch by adding new mulch or dying existing mulch", rather than adding 2-4" of new mulch every year regardless of existing depth.

## 7) SUBCOMMITTEES

### Adopt A Spot

Mr. Marshall & Mr. Hower updated the Commission about the current state of the Pie Island Adopt-a-spot.

## 8) OLD BUSINESS

### a) Tree Commission FY '24 Council Report (August 13) – Approval

Mr. Hower previewed the Tree Commission Annual Report in advance of the August 13<sup>th</sup> Town Council Meeting.

### b) Treesburg Initiative (Fall Event/Town High Schools) – Preliminary Plans

Mrs. Welch was absent so the update on the Treesburg Initiative was postponed to the August meeting.

### c) Spotted Lantern Fly/Tree of Heaven – Pubic Education/Managing Invasives Plans

Marking ribbons for Tree of Heaven and the nuances of hack-n-squirt herbicide applications were discussed.

## 9) NEW BUSINESS

### a) Alliance for Community Trees Network – Town Membership

This item was postponed until the August meeting.

### b) Vote on allocating Tree Fund dollars to Fall Planting Initiative

Commissioner Hower made a motion to vote for the allocation of Tree Funds for the Planting Initiative.

Motion to approve: Marshall

Second: Schneider

Carried: 6-0-4

### c) Vote to pursue a Tree Removal Permit Application for the Town

Commissioner Hower made a motion to vote on pursuing a Tree Removal Application Process.

Motion to approve: Marshall

Second: Holt

Carried: 6-0-1

## 10) COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

Mr. Marshall discussed a new organization called "Leesburg Movement". Mrs. Holt shared about her Girl Scout Troop donating \$2500 to build the West Y Adopt-a-Spot at the intersection of Loudoun St, West Market Street and Morven Park Rd. Mr. Schneider offered to help apply for Tree Planting grants again this year. The Commission agreed that the Invasive Species initiative should be re-posted and be promoted again by the Town PIO this year and subsequent years. Mr. Hower requested that advance copies of the Town Branch Stream Restoration plans be submitted to the Commission for review prior to the August meeting.

## 11) ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Hower made a motion to adjourn.

Motion to approve: Marshall

Second: Schneider

Carried: 6-0-1

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM