

FINAL

**Minutes of the Parks & Green Spaces Committee Meeting  
Thursday, November 7, 2019  
4:00 – 5:00 pm Village Hall**

Susan Kilborn opened the meeting by introducing Susan Kirby who is considering joining the Committee.

Meredith Wellington from the Western Grove Park Committee, spoke about the need to remove the foreign invasive plants taking hold in Western Grove Park. The trees especially are under attack.

On October 7 Meredith met in Western Grove Park with Ryan Collington of Montgomery County Parks. He said that he would be happy to come and train any volunteers from the Maintenance Committee how to control the invasive species such as Virginia Creeper, Porcelain Berry and Ivy.

The original stand of boxwood planted between Grafton Street and Laurel Parkway is not thriving and the Village is trying to save it from a Boxwood Blight infection. Lyn Batdorf, a boxwood expert of world renown, has recommended an interesting cure. (Please see attached correspondence between the Village Arborist, Dr. Tolbert Feather, and Dr. Batdorf outlining his recommendations.) As a first step in the plan, mites were released in October.

Boxwood blight has caused havoc in the Eastern United States. Below are the signs of a Boxwood Blight infection:

- Circular dark spots on leaves
- Rapid browning of the leaves
- Black streak on twigs
- Leaf loss on lower parts of branch, moving upward.

Margo Kingston reported that the long-awaited Dixie Wood ferns (*Dryopteris x marginalis* or *australis*) had arrived. There are 48 of them and are touted to be semi-evergreen. This lovely fern has an erect habit with spectacular wide, green fronds on a wide clump which makes a great ground cover. After the soil has been enriched at the Montgomery Street Entrance to the Village, a date will be set for planting them.

The Buffer, a County owned Open Space with a brick walkway that winds down from Grove to Park Street has water runoff problems as well as invasive vines that need to be removed from trees and shrubs.

We are relying on Montgomery County's engineer to find a solution that will keep water runoff dirt from covering the walkways. Also, it was noted that the trees and shrubs are thriving in the Buffer. This makes the area more and more shady. It seems that some Buffer plants may suffer from the trees' successful growth.

Margo Kingston spoke about a monthly feature introduced this year in the Village Crier to highlight Village trees. Neighborhood trees selected so far are the Ginkgo in September; in October, the Purple Beech and in November the Japanese Zelkova. (Please see attached the complete list of trees chosen for this year.)

## FUTURE MEETING DATES FOR 2019-2020

December 5, 2019 @ 11:00 am Flocking Boxwood

March 5, 2020 @ 4:00 pm

April 2, 2020 @ 4:00 pm

May 7, 2020 @ 4:00 pm

### Attachments:

Chevy Chase Village Parks Map

Chevy Chase Village Green spaces

Dr. Tolbert Feather's Boxwood Letter

Dr. Batdorf's Boxwood Recommendation Letter

Featured Trees for the 2019 – 2020 Village Crier

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Kilborn and Margo Kingston, Co-Chairs