

## CTC Policy Committee Minutes, 4/7/2022

In attendance:

Mary Songster, Rodney Walters, Lauren Stubbs, Eric Caubo, Patrick Perry

Mary started the meeting by noting that after January we will need a new Commissioner liaison for the CTC. There will be potentially five new ones to ask but we should put in a reminder to request from Mayor new commission representative for the CTC.

Rodney discussed the advantages of clarifying the Champion tree standard so that we might be able to keep a better inventory of large caliper trees that would be next in line for Community Champion status. Mary agreed to contact the state coordinator to find out more about the system for grading Champions and clarifying the standards.

We continued a lively and productive discussion on silt fencing and tree protection areas. Noted was the fact that tree protection standards are scattered in many departments and as development and redevelopment happen there is a gap in who checks on the proper install. Noted was the lack of employees able to check and enforce proper fencing in either planning or central services. Eric said he would check with Bruce Lonnee about the possibility of being in the loop sooner so he'd be able to walk sites before installation. The current triggers for silt fences revolve around water quality so we talked about ways to expand that to include soil conservation and tree root protection.

Patrick mentioned that monetizing the damages caused by poor silt fence installation that undermined root structure of conserve trees would be a good incentive to comply.

Mary relayed an email conversation she had with Rachel Hopkins in ACC transportation about planting trees at bus stop sites. They were very receptive and look forward to moving forward with a partnership around this.

We continued discussion on setting up a program in conjunction with the Athens Land Trust to start a program that would encompass arborist skills and nursery skills. Discussed that the Land Trust would like to develop a certificate program. The structure is loose and needs much more development plan on asking whole CTC for any expertise that could help develop.