

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES , MARCH 12 2019 word

President Julie Szymaszek welcomed the twenty-two neighbors who attended the meeting and two guest speakers, Tyler McKee, a forester with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, and Ernie Shea, a Lutherville resident and chairman of Friends of Roland Run.

1. Mr. McKee talked about what's killing trees in our community. The main culprit is the emerald ash borer. Mr. McKee showed pictures of damaged trees. He recommended residents consult a licensed tree expert or, better yet, a certified arborist, to assess one's trees and either treat them or cut them down. Residents can search for qualified professionals on the Maryland Natural Resources Forest Service's website.

Mr. McKee also talked about other pests such as the gypsy moth, the walnut twig beetle, and the hemlock woolly adelgid. He said native diseases and pests, like anthracnose, and hardwood defoliators, are not major threats.

He talked about basic tree care: 1) don't mulch right up to the tree trunk, and limit mulch to a depth of three inches. 2) when one has to cut or prune a tree, don't cut flat to the trunk. 3) water newly planted trees, but watering isn't necessary for mature trees. 4) fertilizer is not recommended for trees. 5) prune trees in early spring or late summer. 6) do not "top" trees. 7) if you have to cut vines off trees, leave a window of about 3 feet, and "don't" pull the vines off.

Mr. McKee recommended planting a variety of tree species, including pin oak, american sycamore, sweetgum (rotundiloba doesn't produce sticky balls), red maple, and hophornbeam. Good small trees for our area are eastern redbud and witch hazel. For soggy areas, he recommended box elder. He said the University of Maryland Home and Garden extension service has good advice, and is free.

2. The next speaker was Ernie Shea, chairman of Friends of Roland Run. Ernie said Baltimore County will get rid of dead and dying trees on county property. Homeowners are responsible for trees on their properties. The county will survey the problem this spring, remove dead trees this summer, and replace them this fall. Ernie said the Roland Run Restoration project is in its final phase, and landscaping will be installed this summer. Ernie said volunteers are needed for water monitoring. Contact Ernie Shea at: e.shea@comcast.net.

3. The minutes and treasurer's report from October's General meeting were approved.

4. Treasurer Debbie Darr reported total income since last May was \$5,311.83. Expenses were \$4,582.09, leaving a net income of \$896.69.

5. Membership chair Marcia Hettinger reported \$3,437 in dues has been collected so far. She expects we'll probably match last year's numbers soon.

6. Nominating chair Karen Darden said the posts of treasurer and hospitality chair are still vacant.

7. Zoning chair Eric Rockel said the state's "Tree-mendous Maryland" program will plant trees in the park on Morris Avenue in the fall.

entering Roland Run. He said he's dissatisfied with the Roland Run restoration project.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. McGee". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "K" and a long, horizontal flourish at the end.

Kathleen McGee