Summary of Discussion of Bexley Arboretum/Heritage Trees/Landmark Trees

Friday, May 15, 2020, 11:00 to Noon via Zoom.

Attendees:

Elena Andrews

Larry Helman

Ben Kessler

Mollie O’Donnell

Susan Quintenz

Richard Sharp

With thanks:

We acknowledge with gratitude the work of Councilmen Troy Markham and Richard Sharp in conceptualizing and writing an ordinance to enhance the Bexley Arboretum through the creation of a Heritage Tree designation. We are also grateful to the good work of Mayor Ben Kessler and Consultant Elena Andrews in fine tuning the proposed ordinance.

Because of the opportunity to discuss the above designation, members of the Tree Commission along with staff have re-engaged with the Arboretum concept. The re-engagement has produced the following collegially agreed upon conclusions.

1. The Heritage Tree Ordinance would be more manageable and accessible as a program of the Arboretum than as a regulatory ordinance.
2. Written content for the Arboretum, which may include information from the previously published “Landmark Tree Booklet” of 2003, will be moved online as appropriate.
3. Goals for the Bexley Arboretum will be discussed and agreed upon by the Bexley Tree and Public Gardens Commission.
4. Broad topic areas that will ground the activities of the Arboretum will be enumerated.
5. The Bexley Arboretum is a unique brand that only Bexley can own since we are the first municipal arboretum in the United States.
6. The Bexley Arboretum would benefit from focusing on its own goals and not adding other local or national programs to its menu.
7. There will be renewed attention to updating and fine tuning the information already listed on the [www.bexleyarboretum.org](http://www.bexleyarboretum.org) web site. The opportunity to engage a paid intern to do this work is a potential option.
8. The use of a wide variety of designations for recognized trees will be simplified and defined. This will include designations such as Landmark Trees; Specimen Trees; Heritage Trees; Historic Trees; Trees included in geographical tree walks and trees designated near Bexley House and Garden Tour sites.
9. The viability of listing the Arboretum topic on the Bexley T&PGC agenda will be monitored for effectiveness and progress.
10. A timeline will be created for focusing on above items.