

Memorandum

Date: January 15, 2010
To: Members of the Main Street Monroe/Downtown Development Authority
From: Andrea Jones, Main Street Manager
Re: Tree Replacement Species

Below is an excerpt from an email I received from Patrick Lewis on November 13, 2008 regarding the two species of trees that were planted at the intersection of Washington and East Front Streets.

"The recommended trees are an alternating combination of the European Hornbeam (roughly 25' max. spread on 35' max. height), and the Bowhall Maple (max. 15' spread on 40' max. height). Neither tree flowers, but the Hornbeam is yellow in Fall and the Bowhall is red. It is felt that in order to meet most of the DDA's stated goals to minimize (but not eliminate) the likelihood of intense bird infestation and to minimize maintenance associated with flowering trees with berries, we would go with 2 types of trees that do not flower but give off alternating colors in the Fall, thus replacing the Spring beauty of flowers and their associated downsides with a more brilliant Fall color pattern.

Both trees have very favorable branching and root characteristics suitable to downtown installations. Examples of the hornbeams are surrounding the outside of the City Council chambers (though cut off by their proximity to the wall). The Hackberry tree suggested by the Design Committee actually grows taller than the Bradford pears, which was not felt to be desirable, and the Lindens are notorious for shallow roots which will easily damage surface infrastructure (examples of these are on Washington adjacent to the courthouse)."

The MSM/DDA Board asked to be able to review the species after the fall season to determine if all of the downtown tree replacements will continue to be these species. In order to be prepared for the spring planting season MSM/DDA feedback is requested on the species. I will be speaking with Patrick about projected tree replacements for this year.

Thank you.