

TO: The Conservation Advisory Commission, City of Hudson to CAC
Via email to Rich Volo, chairman, at richvolo@cityofhudson.org
From: Peter Meyer, 518.929.6505 pbmeyer@verizon.net
Date: April 6, 2025
Subject: Adopt-a-tree program

A Proposal: Adopt-a-Tree Program of Hudson, New York

1. The Conservation Advisory Commission (CAC) of the City of Hudson shall create a program to care for the health and welfare of trees under its supervision per the [name of law and/or code that applies]
2. The program shall be known as Adopt-a-Tree and CAC shall use it to raise funds for the care of Hudson trees as identified below by allowing citizens to donate money to be used exclusively for the care of the trees as identified below.
3. As part of the Adopt-a-Tree program, the CAC shall identify 100 heritage trees (those determined to be over 100 years old) within the City Limits and then invite a class of 5th- and/or 6th-grade students from the Hudson City School District to choose the most deserving 50 trees based on essays the students have written about their favorite trees. ^{1***} Ownership rights should not be an issue during this first phase of the program. But once chosen as an Adoptee Heritage Tree the “owner(s) of the tree” (as defined by the CAC) shall be invited to join the program (a plaque and letter from CAC would be part of the agreement/award), with a list of these trees included in official CAC records and documents.
 - a. A budget for implementing this program should be set by the CAC.
 - b. It would be the goal of the program to be self-sufficient with “adoption” donations covering all the program’s budget expenses.
 - c. As part of creating the program and its budget CAC would determine adoption procedures and suggested donations to acquire an adoption “certificate.”
4. The CAC shall determine how best to choose a qualified arborist to help determine the age, species, and health of the trees selected in #3 above, as well as determine how best to care for the trees (to include fertilizing, trimming, and protecting against disease and manmade encroachments), the cost of such care on an annualized basis, as well as how to implement and oversee the program.
5. The CAC is encouraged to work with the Columbia County Environmental Management Council and other government groups and agencies, as well as independent non-profit groups, and private property owners to develop, implement and promote this plan.

---peter meyer
4/6/25

^{1 ***} This proposal is intended as a foundation for the Adopt-a-Tree program—not a ceiling—and thus these organizational recommendations should be taken as the basics for a “start-up” and not limitations on future expansion.