

City of Lambertville
SHADE TREE COMMISSION

Minutes of February 24th, 2020 Meeting

Attending the meeting were members Brian Herzhauser, Art Legere, Helen Pettit, Susan Wydick, Jessica Campo, Rich Mowry, and Tom Ogren . Chair Brian Herzhauser convened the meeting at 7:30 pm. The meeting was held in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

Approval of Minutes:

Helen made a motion, seconded by Brian, to approve the minutes of the January 27th meeting. All voted in favor.

New Business:

a. 39 Jefferson Street - Tree Action Request: Homeowner Lynne Haberkern, who attended the meeting, requested approval to remove a large dying ash tree in front of her home. She asked that she be allowed to retain part of the stump for a planter. Given the ordinance requirement for removal and that this stump would remain for a very long time, precluding a replacement tree, the Commission declined her request. *Art made a motion, seconded by Sue, that removal of the tree including the stump be approved. All voted in favor except Helen who abstained.*

b. 39 Clinton Street - Tree Action Request: Leigh McKay, a property owner, requested approval to trim a crabapple tree in front of the house at this address. In the absence of a reason for trimming this small tree with few branches, there was an extended discussion about the need for more information to act on the request. *Tom made a motion, seconded by Sue, that the request be tabled and that the property owner be asked to provide more information about limbs to be trimmed and the reason for trimming either in writing or by attending the next meeting. All voted in favor except Brian who voted 'no.'*

The discussion of this request led to further discussion about revising the Tree Action Request form sent by email to include more relevant information. It was agreed that the form should include more information and that Art and Helen should report back to the Commission with proposed revisions.

c. Arbor Day Celebration: Tom reported that he had contacted a first grade teacher at the Lambertville elementary school about the participation of her students in an Arbor Day celebration event on the last Friday in April. He said that the celebration would include the planting of a shade tree near the playground next to the school, a reading of an Arbor Day proclamation by the mayor or a council member, the active participation by students, and a short talk about trees. Rich offered to arrange for buying a tree wholesale. Brian agreed to inform the Parks and Recreation Commission of the tree planting and arrange for the reading of the proclamation. Tom will report back on student participation.

d. Big Tree Hunt Contest: Tom proposed that the STC sponsor a big tree hunt contest, an objective included in the City's Community Forestry Management Plan. He proposed that 5th and 6th grade students participate in the contest which could be held in the spring or fall. He said that students could be asked to identify the largest tree of a particular species. It was suggested and agreed that the contest be limited to identifying the largest tree of the following species: ash, maple, oak and sycamore. It was also suggested that Lambertville businesses be asked to donate a gift card to the winners instead of presenting them with a National Arbor Day Foundation cap or T-shirt saying "plant trees" as proposed by Tom. It was agreed that Tom should work out further details with teachers at the Lambertville school and report back.

Old Business:

a. Tree Inventory Software: Brian reported that he obtained prices from a software company, Urban Forest Metrix, for an inventory of street trees in the amount of \$2,700. An additional \$80 per month would be for cloud storage and \$500 per year for technical assistance (beyond the first year). It was agreed that Brian should arrange for the purchase of the software with the City. Brian indicated that members of the Commission could walk the entire City to enter tree inventory data.

b. Earth Day: Brian reported that he had received an email from Mary Ann Borges of Lambertville Goes Wild with details about an Earth Day observance on April 4th. It was agreed that the Commission would forgo having a table at the event but would participate with tree seedling distribution. Several members agreed to attend from 11 am to 1 pm at the Justice Center.

c. Direct Mail Information Card for STC: Item tabled for next meeting.

Member Comments:

Brian reported that he (and Tom) completed the Annual Accomplishment Report and that he submitted it to the NJ State Forest Service earlier this month.

Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Tom Ogren
Secretary