

City of Lambertville
SHADE TREE COMMISSION

Minutes of August 24, 2020 Meeting

Attending the meeting via Zoom were members Brian Herzhauser, Helen Pettit, Jessica Palilonis, and Tom Ogren . Susan Wydick, Art Legere , and Rich Mowry were absent. Chair Brian Herzhauser convened the meeting at 7:37 pm. The meeting was held in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

Approval of Minutes:

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

New Business:

1. 40 Jean Street - Tree Action Request: Homeowners Deborah and Jerre Kilmer requested approval to remove a dying Ash tree near the street on their property. *Helen made a motion, seconded by Jessica, that the request be approved. All voted in favor.*

2. 86 N. Union Street - Tree Action Request: Homeowner Judith Gleason Gilmour requested approval to remove a dying Ash tree located between the sidewalk and curb. There was a brief discussion about whether full compliance with the ordinance requirement for depth of stump removal could be achieved since stump removal equipment may not be able to fit in such a small tree pit. *Helen made a motion, seconded by Tom, that the request be approved with the understating that the stump be removed to the extent possible. All voted in favor.*

3. 27 Jefferson Street - Tree Action Request: Homeowner Jack Ludwig requested approval to remove a Silver maple tree located along George Street. It was noted that earlier this month a storm had caused a very large branch from the tree to fall on power lines and that the homeowner was concerned that another large branch could also fall on power lines. Given this possibility and the advanced age of this particular tree, STC members felt that the tree should be removed. Since the tree was not dead, however, it was also agreed that the homeowner should be required to plant a replacement tree. *Brian made a motion, seconded by Helen, that the request for removal be approved with the condition that a replacement tree be planted. All voted in favor.*

Old Business:

Tree Action Request form revision: STC members discussed the proposed revision of the Tree Action Request form prepared by Helen. Helen pointed out that the form requested more information which would be useful to the STC in reviewing tree related requests. STC members were generally in favor of the revised form. Tom suggested that the information requested on a sketch of the property might be better and more easily conveyed by photos. He offered to send revised wording to Helen. Helen and the other members agreed to consider such a change.

Announcements:

Brian reported that the City Council had approved a change order for the Clinton Street phase II project which deleted the planting of 8 trees. Tom pointed out that the deletion was apparently not due to lack of funds since the total project cost with the trees was less than the NJ Department of Transportation grant for the project. To remedy the situation, Brian indicated that the mayor had agreed to fund the tree planting as originally proposed.

Public/Commission Member Comments:

Helen reported that she recently met with a property owner at 105 Clinton Street concerning the removal of a dead limb from a street tree at her property. Helen said that she had informed the homeowner of the need to submit a Tree Action Request form to the Shade Tree Commission. Nevertheless, the homeowner proceeded with hiring a company to remove the branch and do additional tree trimming. At Helen's suggestion, STC members agreed that a notice of violation letter should be sent to the homeowner stating that the violation could result in a fine.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by 8:29 pm.

Tom Ogren,
Secretary