

**City of Lambertville**  
**SHADE TREE COMMISSION**

**Minutes of October 26th, 2020 Meeting**

Attending the meeting via Zoom were members Brian Herzhauser, Helen Pettit, Susan Wydick, Rich Mowry, and Tom Ogren. Jessica Palilonis and Art Legere were absent. Chair Brian Herzhauser convened the meeting at 7:35 pm. The meeting was held in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

**Approval of Minutes:**

*Helen made a motion, seconded by Sue, to approve the minutes of the September 28th meeting. All voted in favor.*

**New Business:**

1. 34 Jefferson Street - Tree Action Request: Homeowner Ward Sanders requested approval to trim a dogwood tree in front of his house to remove dead branches. *Helen made a motion, seconded by Susan, to approve the request. All voted in favor except Rich who abstained.*

2. 54 Elm Street - Tree Action Request: Homeowner Kathleen Harris requested approval to trim a zelkova tree in front of her house to remove dead branches and branches close to an electrical service line to her house. *Tom made a motion, seconded by Helen, that the request be approved. All voted in favor,*

3. 66 Delaware Street - Tree Action Request: Homeowner Donna Ollio requested approval to trim a zelkova tree in front of her house to remove dead and low hanging branches. *Brian made a motion, seconded by Sue, that the request be approved. All voted in favor except Rich who abstained.*

4. 26 Delevan Street - Tree Action Request: Homeowner Patricia Flavin requested approval to trim a sweetgum tree in front of her house to remove branches which extended to her house and over her roof. *Helen made a motion, seconded by Sue, that the request be approved. All voted in favor.*

5. Christmas lights on N. Union Street. Brian reported that a representative of the River Towns Chamber of Commerce City Beautification Committee notified him of their plan to string lights on street trees from Bridge Street to Coryell Street during the holiday season. STC members agreed that the temporary decorative lighting would not injure the trees and supported the proposal.

**Old Business:**

1. 407 Sergeant Drive - Tree Action Request: Brian reported that the homeowner responded to the letter sent after the previous meeting regarding notification of the Lambert's Hill homeowners' association of her proposal to remove a large Sycamore tree in her front yard. She agreed to the notification.

2. Notice of Violation - 105 Clinton Street: Brian reported that the homeowner submitted a written response to the letter of the STC notifying her that she was in violation of the City ordinance requirement that removal of dead branches required prior approval of the STC . The homeowner indicated that she was told by someone at the City that approval was not necessary for removal of dead limbs. The STC agreed not to pursue legal action and forgo imposing a fine since there was a mitigating factor. Brian will notify the homeowner of this decision. He will also send a memo to the Mayor and City Clerk to request that they direct all City Hall Staff to refrain from commenting on Shade Tree Ordinance requirements and to refer all future requests about the Shade Tree Ordinance to the Shade Tree Commission chairman.

Helen proposed that an article be included the City newsletter indicating when a property owner needed to receive approval of the STC for tree removal and other actions. Helen agreed to draft an article.

**Public/STC Member Comments:**

Mary Anne Borge of Lambertville Goes Wild commented on changes to the Street Tree section of the City landscaping ordinance (Sec. 510.3&4) proposed by that organization. (The ordinance applies to new development and substantial additions which come before the Planning Board for site plan approval.) Mary Anne indicated that the list of tree and plant species in the ordinance needed to be updated since it included some non-native and invasive species which were inconsistent to the list of tree species recommended by the STC. Brian suggested that members discuss at the November meeting the proposed revisions which Mary Anne had emailed to STC members.

Brian reported that as part of the Clinton Street phase 2 project trees which were not planted by the original contractor will be planted by Rutgers Nursery starting November 12th.

Helen reported that she had sent to the City Clerk the revised Tree Action Request application for posting on the City website. The document was in Word Perfect however, and will need to be converted to Microsoft Word. Sue offered to re-type the application.

Tom asked about any action being taken by the City in response to the STC request that the City remove dead limbs from large oak trees in front of the Kalmia house and in Sheridan Park. There was a discussion as to whether the tree should be removed or just trimmed of dead branches as previously requested. Brian said that he would contact the City Clerk about removing the dead branches and having JCP&L remove branches near electrical wires.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:06 pm.

Tom Ogren  
Secretary