

City of Lambertville
SHADE TREE COMMISSION

Minutes of November 23rd, 2020 Meeting

Attending the meeting via Zoom were members Brian Herzhauser, Helen Pettit, Susan Wydick, Rich Mowry, Art Legere and Tom Ogren. Jessica Palilonis was absent. Chair Brian Herzhauser convened the meeting at 7:31 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 October 26th meeting. All voted in favor.

New Business:

1. Review of City Landscape Ordinance

Brian indicted that Lambertville Goes Wild asked the STC to support revisions of the City's landscape ordinance as proposed by that organization. He then introduced Mary Ann Borge from Lambertville Goes Wild to summarize the proposed revisions. Mary Ann described the following revisions which pertain to street trees: 1) Replace the current list of recommended street tree species with the STC list of recommended shade trees; 2) Require consultation with the STC for any other trees proposed; 3) Add a provision prohibiting the planting of invasive species listed by NJ DEP or the NJ Invasive Specie Strike Team; and 4) Require that 75% of plantings be native species.

Helen proposed that instead of listing recommended street tree species in the ordinance, a reference could simply be made to the recommended tree list of the STC. She pointed out that the STC decided not to list species in its ordinance so that changes could be made over time without having to amend the ordinance. To replace a listing of tree species, Mary Ann agreed to draft a sentence stating that recommended street trees are species recommended by the STC pursuant to Section 3-16 of the municipal code.

Tom suggested a change to the proposed last sentence in section 510.1 G. of the landscape ordinance which stated that the City could require property owners to remove invasive species. He said that this statement is too broad and is not related to the city's review of landscaping plans. Helen suggested that the sentence be revised to say that the planning board, as part of site plan review, may require the removal of invasive species. Mary Ann agreed to draft a revised sentence so stating.

Brian suggested that the STC send a letter to Lambertville Goes Wild supporting their revisions to the landscaping ordinance with the two changes described above. All agreed with his suggestion.

2. Street Tree Inventory Software

Brian indicated that he and Art reviewed software made by SDL and Arbor Pro, Inc. in consultation with representatives of those software consulting firms. They recommended that the STC not utilize software of SDL, the City's current software company, but instead purchase the Arbor Pro software since it was easiest to use in the field. Brian pointed out that the \$5,000 cost of the software was already in the City's capital budget for this year. All agreed to purchase the Arbor Pro software as recommended assuming that a tablet could be donated to use with the software.

Public Comments and Member Statements:

Brian mentioned that the street trees on Clinton Street had been planted.

Sue mentioned that she had finished re-typing the Tree Action Request form. Brian sent a copy to STC members for their review with any comments due by December 4th.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:48 pm.

Tom Ogren
Secretary