

City of Lambertville
SHADE TREE COMMISSION

Minutes of October 28th, 2019 Meeting

Attending the meeting were members Brian Herzhauser, Art Legere, Helen Pettit, Susan Wydick, and Tom Ogren. Jessica Campo and Rich Mowry 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 Art, to approve the minutes of the September 30th meeting. All voted in favor.

New Business:

a. Highland Avenue - Tree Action Request: The Woodcrest Homeowners Association submitted the request to remove two dead ash trees in a common area along Highland Ave. (opposite 18 Highland Ave.). Derrick Kappler, Secretary of the Association board attended the meeting along with board member Mary Anne Borges. Mr. Kappler requested at the meeting that the requirement for stump grinding be waived since grinding would unnecessarily disturb the soil in this natural area where there is no sidewalk. *After a brief discussion, Helen made a motion, seconded by Tom, that the request for removal of the trees without stump grinding be approved. All voted in favor.*

b. 21 York Street - Tree Action Request: Richard McDonough of the Van Horn-McDonough Funeral Home submitted a request to prune branches on three Pin oak trees along the N. Main Street side of the building. Branches to be pruned were either dead or overhanging the roof of the building. *Art made a motion, seconded by Sue, that the request be approved. All voted in favor.*

c. Clinton Street Project (Phase II): Brian indicated that he and Tom had walked the street with City Engineer Krista last week to determine possible sites for tree planting as part of the project. When finding a spot to plant a tree at 121 Clinton Ave. along the end of Buttonwood Street (on the SW corner), he said that there was a birch tree which should be removed as part of the project. All agreed with the removal of the large dead birch street and that a small birch tree should be saved. *Brian will communicate this decision to Krista.*

Brian invited Commission members to walk the street where proposed planting sites were marked with a painted X. *He also asked Sue and Tom to walk the street with him on Wednesday to propose tree species for planting.*

Brian mentioned that there was a large Crabapple tree at 92 Clinton Ave. which the City Engineer had proposed for removal. The engineer also proposed replacement of the adjacent sidewalk which was raised by the tree. He spoke with the homeowner, Christine O'Donnell,

who indicated that she would have an tree consultant look at the tree and determine if it was worth saving. She reported at the meeting that the consultant felt that the tree could be saved as she desired and that she informed Krista not to remove the tree and replace sidewalk. She also asked permission to trim the tree. Commission members agreed with the request provided she submit a Tree Action Request form.

In connection with this project, Helen expressed concern about the lack of communication between the City and the Shade Tree Commission in reviewing plans. Brian indicated that plans were shared with the Commission but there was some disagreement about whether a full set of plans were received. For the future, it was pointed out that a provision in the new STC ordinance requires prior consultation with the Commission on street improvement projects for tree planting or removal.

117 N. Main Street - Tree Action Request: Homeowner Brian Herzhauser submitted a request to remove a small Hornbeam tree in front of his house, trim a couple trees on the side of his house, and plant a replacement tree along side of his house on Jefferson Street. Commission members agreed with the tree removal since the tree was not a substantial shade tree and that low branches blocked the line of sight for drivers on Jefferson Street wanting to enter N. Main Street. To compensate for the loss of a tree on N. Main Street, it was agreed that another tree should be planted. *Art made a motion, seconded by Tom, that the request be approved with the planting of an additional tree on N. Main Street (location to be determined later). All voted in favor.* Brian rescued himself from the discussion and the vote.

Old Business:

a. Church Street Tree Re-planting: Brian reported that the City did not receive any price quotes in response to a request for proposals to several nurseries. He added that he had called two of the nurseries for an explanation. The explanation included the unavailability of the proposed Norwood maple specie, having to remove some existing dead trees, and the deadline to plant trees this year. To remove these impediments, it was suggested that Public Works remove the existing dead tree trunks and that the Norwood maple specie be eliminated. *Brian was to contact the other nurseries for an explanation and that he would consult with Sue in proposing a new request for proposals.*

There was some concern about when trees could be planted and whether the funds for the planting would be available if the trees were not planted this year. *Brian was to consult with the City Administrator to find out if a signed purchase order was sufficient to encumber funds for this year.*

b. 120 N. Union Street - phones on tree: Brian reported that he was unable to speak with the homeowner about removing cell phones attached to the trunk of a large Sycamore in front of the house. *It was agreed that Helen should send a letter to the homeowners requesting removal of the phones within 10 days.*

c. Kalmia Club oak tree: Christine O'Donnell, co-president of the Kalmia Club, asked about the decision of the STC to have dead limbs on the large oak tree removed. She wanted to know

when the limbs would be removed by the utility company and the City. *Brian responded that he would get back to her with a time line for removal of the limbs.*

STC Member Comments:

Brian asked about a subject for the next quarterly City newsletter. An article about the Spotted Lantern Fly was suggested with information provided in an email from Naomi Drew.

Tom asked about cutting low tree limbs as discussed at the last meeting. Art replied that this could be done by STC volunteers to avoid the cost of hiring a contractor.

Tom asked whether any Public Works employee attended the N.J. Shade Tree Federation Conference to receive Continuing Education credits (CEU's) as required for continued accreditation by the State Community Forestry Program (a total of 8 credits must be earned by two individuals). *Brian was to find out if anyone attended.*

Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

Tom Ogren
Secretary