

City of Lambertville
SHADE TREE COMMISSION

Minutes of September 27, 2021 Meeting

Attending the meeting were members Brian Herzhauser, Helen Pettit, Rich Mowry, Susan Wydick and Tom Ogren. Members Art Legere and Jessica Palilonis were absent. Chair Brian Herzhauser convened the meeting at 7:36 pm. The meeting was held in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act at City Hall.

Approval of Minutes:

Helen made a motion, seconded by Brian, to approve the minutes of the August 23, 2021 meeting. All voted in favor.

New Business:

1. 42 York Street - Tree Action Request: Brian reported that homeowner James Johnson withdrew his request to remove a Sycamore tree located at the curb.

2. 24 Church Street - Tree Action Request: Property owner Brian Barbicke submitted a request to remove a dying ash tree located in the sidewalk. *Tom made a motion, seconded by Brian, that the request be approved. All voted in favor.*

3. 30 Delevan Street - Tree Action Request: Homeowner Russell Ferri submitted a request to trim a large Zelkova tree in front of his house. Some branches were growing over the house. *Brian made a motion, seconded by Sue, that the request be approved. All voted in favor.*

Old Business:

Big Tree Hunt: Brian reported that Tom had made arrangements with the Lambertville Public School for the Big Tree Hunt contest to take place this fall. Tom indicated that, at the request of the lead teacher, 170 students in grades one through six would be eligible to participate in the contest. The STC is to provide copies of the contest notice and entry form in English to all students with additional copies in Spanish.

Public/Commissioner Comments:

Tom mentioned that the New Jersey Shade Tree Conference is being held in October. Rich and Sue indicated that they could provide required continuing education credits by the end of the year from other training sessions.

Rich mentioned that he was contacted by a property owner about removing one of the five dead trees on the east side of N. Main Street between Coryell and York streets. He said that required costs to hire police for extended hours in connection with the removal proved to be cost prohibitive. Tom suggested that the City contact NJ Department of Transportation about removing the trees since they are located on the curb on Route 29, a State highway. Brian agreed to contact the City Clerk about contacting the appropriate person at the Department.

Helen indicated that 35 street trees had been removed since 2019, far fewer than had been planted during that time. She was concerned about the City's loss of tree canopy and suggested a requirement for homeowners to replace removed trees. Tom suggested that the City provide funding for tree planting since homeowners were already burdened with the high cost of removing dead trees in the City right-of-way.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:12 pm.

Tom Ogren
Recording Secretary