

City of Lambertville
SHADE TREE COMMISSION

Minutes of June 22, 2020 Meeting

Attending the meeting via Zoom were members Brian Herzhauser, Art Legere, Helen Pettit, Jessica Campo, Rich Mowry, and Tom Ogren . Susan Wydick was 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:

Helen made a motion, seconded by Art, to approve the minutes of the February 24th meeting. All voted in favor.

New Business:

1. 8 Delevan Street - Tree Action Request. Homeowner John Sunkiskis requested permission to remove a Bradford pear tree along the curb on the Clinton Ave. side of his house. He submitted a letter from an arborist who recommended that the tree be removed since it is an invasive specie, has a limb hit by trucks, and interferes with the owner's house and wires. Several members commented that the tree was healthy, that it provided shade as part of the tree canopy, and that planting a replacement tree in such a small space would not be practical. It was noted that the proposed replacement tree was actually a shrub. *Rich made a motion, seconded by Helen, that the request for removal be denied but that tree trimming be approved with guidelines to be provided by Rich. All voted in favor.*
2. 29 Perry Street - Tree Action Request. Homeowner Kristen Colburn requested permission to plant a street tree in front of her home. *Jessica made a motion, seconded by Rich, that the request be approved and that a Red maple or other hardwood be planted.*
3. 12 Delaware Avenue - Tree Action Request. Homeowner Carol Sue King requested permission to remove two trees, a Hackberry and a Cherry, in order from a crane to be brought into her back yard to remove a dead Ash tree. *Brian made a motion, seconded by Helen that the request be approved with the condition that two replacement trees be planted. One tree is to be planted along Delaware Ave. on the homeowner's side of the street and the other one is to be planted on the opposite side of the street. (Brian will contact the owner of the other property.) Large trees from the STC "Recommended Tree List" are to be planted. All voted to approve the request except for Rich who abstained.*
4. 62 Delaware Avenue - Tree Action Request. Homeowner Peter Desch requested approval to remove a nearly dead Ash tree in front of his home. *Tom made a motion, seconded by Helen, that the request be approved. All voted in favor.*

5. Ash Trees at Delaware River Bridge. Brian received a letter from New Hope architect Karl Pettit expressing concern about several large Ash trees at the entrance to the bridge which will die from Emerald Ash Bore unless treated. Karl joined the meeting to explain in detail his proposal. He said that Monster Tree Service was willing to donate their services in treating the trees with an injection of insecticide donated by Arborjet now and two years from now. There would be publicity giving credit to the donating companies. Matt Scott of Monster Tree also joined the meeting.

Karl indicated that the treatment is proposed for eight trees: four trees within the jurisdiction of the Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission (DRJTBC), two nearby trees behind 13 Lambert Lane, one tree behind 7 Lambert Lane, and one tree behind 3 Lambert Lane. Karl agreed to draft a letter to the DRJTBC for Brian to review. He will also send letters to the property owners on Lambert Lane requesting permission for the treatment (saving them the costly expense of removal).

In recognition of the importance of saving these very visible, large Ash trees, Brian made a motion, seconded by Tom, that the STC send a letter of support for the proposed treatment to Matt Scott at Monster Tree Service. All voted in favor.

Commission Member Comments:

1. Clinton Street Phase II Project: Tom expressed a concern, shared by Helen, that the trees approved by the City Council as part of the bid award have not been planted. (On September 6, 2019 the Council approved an alternate bid of \$4,620 to plant eight trees.) Brian indicated that the City held up tree planting due to the pandemic. *Helen made a motion, seconded by Brian that a letter be sent to the City Clerk and Administrator to request that the project not be closed out and no performance bond be released without the planting of the trees. All voted in favor.*

2. Church Street Tree Planting: Tom asked if lower branches on some of the trees should be trimmed. Rich agreed to take a look at the trees and trim branches as needed.

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

Tom Ogren
Secretary