

**City of Lambertville
SHADE TREE COMMISSION**

Minutes of March 27, 2023 Meeting

Attending the meeting at the Justice Center were members Dan Seiter, Helen Pettit, Susan Wydick, and Tom Ogren. Art Legere Lisa Nichols was absent. Vice Chair Seiter convened the meeting at 7:47 pm. The meeting was held in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

Approval of Minutes

Sue made a motion, seconded by Dan, to approve the minutes of the February 27, 2023 meeting. All voted in favor except Helen who voted 'no.'

Public Attendees Issues/Requests: See Catherine Gamble's request under "new business."

New Business

1, 71 York Street - Tree Action Request: Homeowner Catherine Gamble, who attended the meeting, requested advice on how to eliminate a tripping hazard caused by the roots of a large Crabapple tree heaving the sidewalk in front of her home. (A previous request for tree removal was denied.) Catherine Gamble proposed replacing the concrete with crushed stone or grinding the elevated sidewalk edges and using a bonding agent to fill cracks. She added that the City Engineer had approved the second solution. STC members concurred and felt that this solution provides a more stable walking surface than crushed stone. Helen suggested using bricks but Catherine indicated that this was too expensive. *Tom made a motion, seconded by Sue, that the proposed solution of grinding the concrete and filling of cracks be approved. All voted in favor.*

2. Revision of STC Ordinance: Helen indicated that she had made changes agreed upon at the last meeting including adding wording to clarify the intent of the "jurisdiction zone." Tom suggested two additional revisions: 1) Changing the wording of the "Advisory Role to City Agencies" making it mandatory that the STC be given the opportunity to review proposed plans regarding trees as stated in the existing ordinance and 2) Deleting the section dealing with the property owner's obligation to remove autumn leaves from yards. He said that such a provision should be included under "police regulations" and that the provision should be limited to keeping leaves out of streets and storm drains. All agreed with the proposed changes and that Mayor Nowick be asked to consider including in police regulations a prohibition on placing leaves in the street and in storm drains. *Helen made a motion, seconded by Sue, that the revised STC ordinance be presented to the City for adoption.*

3. Tree Inventory Grant: Dan mentioned that a City Council resolution was on last meeting's agenda to award a contract (to ArborPro). STC members agreed to send a request to Mayor

Nowick that a copy of the proposals be shared with the STC and that any future proposals regarding trees be shared with the STC prior to contract award.

Old Business

161 N. Main Street: Since the last meeting, the STC was advised by the owners that they had no knowledge of the tree trimming done without STC approval. The Mayor was able to confirm that NJ DOT was responsible for the trimming. Given this, the notice of violation sent to the homeowners was rendered moot.

Subcommittee Reports/Issues: None

Announcements/Misc.

Tom discussed plans for an Arbor Day ceremony to be held on the last Friday of April. Sue will obtain price quotes for tree planting for a requisition and purchase order. Tom will coordinate the tree planting location with the chair of the Parks and Recreation Commission who had expressed interest in having a tree planted near the school playground. He will also arrange for students to participate and for the mayor to read an Arbor Day Proclamation. Tom will arrange for the proclamation for the City Clerk to place on a Council agenda. Sue will prepare tree information handouts for the students.

Other Business:

Tom indicated that some trees planted in connection with the Church Street planting once again need pruning. All members consented to having him and Sue do the pruning.

Public/Commission Member Comments/Suggestions: None

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

Tom Ogren
Recording Secretary