

City of Lambertville
SHADE TREE COMMISSION

Minutes of January 23, 2023 Meeting

Attending the meeting at the Justice Center were members Art Legere, Dan Seiter, Helen Pettit, Susan Wydick, Lisa Nichols and Tom Ogren. Chair Legere 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 Dan, to approve the minutes of the November 28, 2022 meeting. All voted in favor.

Oath of Office:

Art Legere was sworn in for a new term; Helen Pettit was previously sworn in the City Clerk.

Public Attendee Issues/Requests:

Mayor Nowick attended the entire meeting and thanked STC members for their service to the town.

Nominations and Election of STC Officers for 2023:

*Dan made a motion, seconded by Helen, that Art be Chairperson. All voted in favor.
Art made a motion seconded by Lisa, that Dan be Vice Chairperson. All voted in favor.
Art made a motion, seconded by Dan, that Tom be Secretary. All voted in favor.
Art made a motion, seconded by Dan, that Helen be Corresponding Secretary. All voted in favor.
Art made a motion, seconded by Tom, that Lisa be Treasurer. All voted in favor.*

New Business:

1. Draft STC Ordinance: Art reported that the Ordinance Committee which included Helen and Dan, had completed their task of drafting amendments to the STC ordinance. He asked if any STC members had any comments about the draft which was emailed to them over the weekend. Tom responded with the following suggestions: 1) revise Section 3-16.4 to expand the STC's authority over tree planting and removal on all City property; 2) revise Section 3-16.13 to include tree planting and removal as an activity to be reviewed by the STC; and 3) revise Section 3-16.8 to permit the STC to accept the planting of a new tree nearby in lieu of stump removal by the applicant or by the City. After a lengthy discussion with differing opinions stated on each suggestion, Tom and Dan agreed that the STC should have an advisory role for tree planting and removal on all City property but only have authority over trees in the

"jurisdictional zone." Art proposed that the Ordinance Committee review Tom's suggestions and report back to the STC. Mayor Nowick asked to see a copy of the revised draft.

2. 2023 City Budget:

Art reported that he had spoken to the mayor about including funds in the 2023 City budget and that this was not possible. In response to questions raised about funds for course credits as required by the NJ Community Forestry Program, Mayor Nowick said that he would provide funds for that purpose. Tom indicated that any Arbor Day tree planting would have to be charged to the Shade Tree Planting Trust Fund. Art asked him and Sue to handle the tree planting this year.

Mayor Nowick reported that he was aware of several dead ash trees that the City would need to remove this year and budget funds for removals. Tom mentioned one ash tree at the end of Delaware St. by the towpath. He will follow-up with an email to the mayor.

Old Business:

1. Riparian Tree Grant Update: Sue reported that a final report has been submitted to the grantor non-profit and that she can provide copies on request. Tom mentioned that three trees were planted at the entrance to the Closson property and Sue added that one was planted in Ely Park.

2. 73 Bridge Street Update: Art reported that Mayor Nowick had spoken with the owner about the tree trimming. She confirmed to him that she knew nothing about the trimming when she was in Paris. Helen reported that she was able to contact JCP&L to confirm that the company had tree trimming done on Bridge Street. Given overwhelming evidence of the owner's non-involvement with the trimming, the matter was dropped.

Subcommittee Reports:

Art reported that the Tree Inventory RFP has been issued. The Mayor Nowick indicated that responses are to be opened on February 13th.

Miscellaneous:

Planting Sites: In response to Art's request, Tom indicated that he had prepared and sent to Art a list of tree planting sites along N. Main Street and the downtown.

STC Vacancy: Art asked STC members if they could interest someone in becoming a member.

Announcements:

Art announced that Lambertville Goes Wild will be hosting another tree seedling give away on April 29 and that anyone wishing to volunteer should contact Mary Anne Borge.

Other Business:

1. Tom mentioned that a utility company had placed a rope around a Ginkgo tree on Jefferson Street to support a cracked utility pole at the corner of Jefferson and George Streets. It has been there for over a year and the rope is severely damaging the tree. A new replacement pole had been installed but no wires have been transferred to it. Mayor Nowick offered to contact JCP&L about transferring the electrical wires. Tom will follow up with an email to him.

2. 161 N. Main Street: Mayor Nowick indicated that the owner had removed part of this dead tree and asked the STC if it could take some action. *Tom made a motion, seconded by Dan, that a letter be sent to the owners regarding their failure to obtain a permit for this work. All voted in favor.*

Public/Commission Member Comments: None

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:46 pm.

Tom Ogren
Recording Secretary