

City of Lambertville
SHADE TREE COMMISSION

Minutes of April 26, 2021 Meeting

Attending the meeting via Zoom were members Brian Herzhauser, Helen Pettit, Susan Wydick, Rich Mowry, Art Legere and Tom Ogren. Member Jessica Palilonis was absent. Chair Brian Herzhauser convened the meeting at 7:40 pm. The meeting was held in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

Approval of Minutes:

Helen made a motion, seconded by Brian, to approve the minutes of the March 22, 2021 meeting. All voted in favor.

New Business:

1. 40 Delaware Avenue - Tree Action Request: Property owner Philip Faherty III requested approval to remove a Lacebark elm tree in front of his law office due to the proximity of a sewer line. A large root from the tree had just been removed from the damaged sewer line going into the street. Unless the tree was removed, the owner anticipated that roots from the tree would some day affect the same sewer line extending from the curb to the law office. *After an extended discussion, Art made a motion, seconded by Brian, that the request be approved on the condition that the owner contribute \$800 to the City's Tree Planting Trust Fund or have two street trees planted off site as required by the City Shade Tree ordinance. All voted in favor.*
2. 158-160 N. Union Street: The owners of 158 N. Union Street, Peter and Maria Ammirati, appeared at the meeting via Zoom to request permission to plant a tree at the mid-point between two trees they planted last year. STC members indicated support of the additional tree planting and requested that a Tree Action Request form be submitted along with written consent of the owner at 160 N. Union.
3. 2021 City Budget Request: STC members agreed that Brian should request the City to include \$7,200 in this year's budget for shade tree related activity, a condition of receiving Tree City USA status from the National Arbor Day Foundation. Tom mentioned that costs already incurred for tree trimming at Sheridan Park could count toward meeting that request.

Old Business:

1. Arbor Day Celebration: Tom reported on plans for an Arbor Day celebration to be held this Friday at 11 am. He indicated that a second grade class from the Lambertville Elementary School would be participating in a ceremony at a newly planted tree near the gazebo. He

suggested that students could water and spread mulch around the tree. Also, a Council member would read an Arbor Day proclamation from the mayor.

2. Big Tree Hunt: Brian indicated that the previously discussed Big Tree Hunt event planned for last year should be re-scheduled for this year. It was agreed that the event would take place this fall.

Public/Commission Member Comments:

Homeowner Irene Rudolph of 90 Clinton Street attended the meeting via Zoom to request that the STC have five Crabapple trees along Clinton Street pruned of lower branches and suckers. To promptly respond to this request, Brian offered to prune the trees in question with the understanding that the homeowners be urged to perform this task in the future. STC members suggested that the City's website include a statement urging property owners to trim their trees of branches less than seven feet off the ground.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:58 pm.

Tom Ogren
Secretary