

**City of Lambertville
SHADE TREE COMMISSION**

Minutes of March 28, 2022 Meeting

Attending the meeting were members Brian Herzhauser, Helen Pettit, Art Legere, Susan Wydick, Rich Mowry and Tom Ogren. Chair Brian Herzhauser convened the meeting at 7:32 pm. The meeting was held in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act at City Hall.

Approval of Minutes:

Brian made a motion, seconded by Art, to approve the minutes of the February 28, 2022 meeting. All voted in favor.

New Business:

1. 38 Douglas Street - Tree Action Request: Homeowner Pasquale Pittore, who attended the meeting, requested approval to trim a large Red Oak tree along Studdiford Ave., the other street which borders this corner property. Trimming will include removal of dead limbs and low branches. *Brian made a motion, seconded by Art, that the request be approved. All voted in favor.*

2. 88 N. Main Street - Tree Action Request: Homeowner Oscar Serpell requested approval to plant three new street trees in the sidewalk along the curb. there was a discussion about the number and species of tree to be planted given the location, taking into consideration salt sensitivity, soil compaction, and other relevant factors. *Tom made a motion, seconded by Rich, that up to three trees be approved with the species to be agreed upon with the homeowner on site. All voted in favor.*

(Brian and Rich are to meet with the homeowner.)

3. 117 N. Main Street - Tree Action Request: Homeowner Sarah Herzhauser requested approval to remove a mature Norway Maple tree on Jefferson Street, the other street which borders this corner property. This maple tree, according to the owner, was crowding out two recently planted locust trees nearby on either side of the Maple tree. Removal of the non-native tree would allow the younger trees to grow normally. Also mentioned was that the tree trunk has a five foot long crack. *Art made a motion, seconded by Sue, that the request be approved. All voted in favor except for Brian and Rich who abstained.*

4. Tree Planting Trust Fund: Helen mentioned that, upon consultation with City staff, the STC needed to request the City Council to pass a resolution authorizing the creation of a Tree Planting Trust Fund account even though the STC ordinance already authorized the creation of the Tree Planting Trust Fund. *Tom made a motion, seconded by Helen, that the STC requests the City Council to establish the trust fund account. All voted in favor.*

Old Business:

1. **STC Ordinance and Procedures Manual:** Helen presented her draft of proposed amendments to the STC ordinance and a procedures manual. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the proposed "emergencies" provision which would allow the chair of the STC to consult with the mayor and police regarding "fallen" trees or branches creating an "obstruction" to pedestrians or vehicles, injuries or damages. Questions arose as to the need for this provision and why the chair or the STC would need to be consulted if the tree or branch had already fallen, in which case only removal was needed. In hazardous situations involving standing trees and attached braches, it was suggested that a property owner should consult with an arborist or the chair or other member of the STC in making a decision about removing hazardous trees or branches. Helen is to present revised ordinance provisions at the next meeting.
2. **Delaware Greenway Partnership Grant:** Sue provided background on submission of the grant application last January in partnership with Splash, an international non-profit promoting safe drinking water, and Lambertville Goes Wild. She reported that grant funds were now available according to City staff and that the first planting of trees would take place on Arbor Day, April 29th. Possible tree planting locations near streams and drainage swales are to be determined.
3. **Earth Day Flyer:** Sue volunteered to prepare a flyer on tree planting as suggested at the last meeting for distribution to the public at an Earth Day event at Cavallo Park on April 16th.
4. **Arbor Day Celebration:** To celebrate Arbor Day, Tom proposed that the STC again host an event on Arbor Day, April 29th, with students at the Lambertville public school. There would be tree planting, student participation, and the reading of an Arbor Day proclamation, possibly by the mayor. Rich was to check on a possible tree. Brian was to check on funding and getting a proclamation before Council. *Brian made a motion, seconded by Tom, that an Arbor Day event be held as proposed .*

Public/Commission Member Comments:

Brian reported that he and Tom have arranged for the planting of two street trees along Lily Street at the Public Library. This fulfills a requirement of the Planning Board that the owner of a new business at 51 Bridge Street plant two trees to compensate for the removal of a street tree at that address.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:02 pm.

Tom Ogren
Recording Secretary