

**City of Lambertville
SHADE TREE COMMISSION**

Minutes of May 23, 2022 Meeting

Attending the meeting were members Art Legere, Helen Pettit, Susan Wydick, Rich Mowry and Tom Ogren. Vice Chair Art Legere, taking over from Brian Herzhauser who resigned, convened the meeting at 7:35 pm. The meeting was held in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act at the Justice Center.

Approval of Minutes:

Helen made a motion, seconded by Rich, to approve the minutes of the April 25, 2022 meeting. All voted in favor.

Public Attendee Issues/Requests:

Mary Ann Borge of Lambertville Goes Wild proposed that the City apply for a Community and Urban Forestry grant to pay for a tree inventory which would cover the cost of a professional and software. She said that grants are available up to \$50,000 with a 25% match required and that the match could be in-kind. She indicated that Lauren Kovacs would serve as the lead person and that applications are due July 8th. Given its long standing interest in having a tree inventory, the STC supported submission of the grant application.

New Business:

1. 191 N. Union Street - Tree Action Request: The property owner, 30 Woodsville Road LLC, requested approval to remove a small dead cherry tree in front of the house. *Art made a motion, seconded by Tom, that the request be approved. All voted in favor.*

2. 169 N. Main Street - Tree Action Request: Homeowner Peter Sheridan requested approval to trim a Zelkova tree in front of his house. Trimming would include removal of dead limbs, limbs close to the house and low to the ground. Given problems with entering information on the online Tree Action Request form, Rich provided information he obtained when speaking with the homeowner. *Art made a motion, seconded by Tom, that the request be approved subject to the homeowner completing the Tree Action Request form. All voted in favor except Helen who abstained.*

3. Planting Grant Update: Sue reported that three trees have been planted and ten more are waiting to be planted in the Alexauken Creek corridor. She is working with Sue Bacorn in the City Finance Department to resolve issues with payment for the trees given grant funds being provided as reimbursements.

4. City Website: Art proposed that a committee be formed to deal with the City website and the STC webpage. Helen and Tom agreed to serve on the committee.

5. Jurisdiction of the STC: Tom indicated that the issue of the STC jurisdiction for trees in City parks was recently raised in connection with the planting of a donated tree in Ely Park. Tom referred to a section of the STC ordinance (Section 3-16.4 Authorization, subsection b.) relating to city parks. He indicated that the chair of the Parks and Recreation Commission interpreted the section to mean that only trees or tree planting in the jurisdiction zone along city parks came under the purview of the STC and that STC tree planting in parks required approval of the Parks and Recreation Commission. It was agreed that Art and Helen would review the intent of the ordinance and propose, if appropriate, an ordinance amendment to clarify the scope of STC jurisdiction in city parks.

6. Vacancies on the STC: Art indicated that those interested in serving on the STC should express their interest to the mayor.

7. Committee Formation: Art proposed committees to advise the STC in specific areas including City Website, Tree Planting Sites, Tree Inventory, STC Procedures, Arbor Day, Community Outreach, Ordinance Review, and Tree Nursery. Art suggested that committees meet at 7 pm at the Justice Center and report to the STC later at the regular monthly meeting.

Helen will continue to serve as liaison with the City staff on STC related trust funds and budget matters. Sue will monitor compliance with the City's Community Forestry Management Plan.

8. STC Officers: Art agreed to officially accept the position as Chair of the Commission, having served as Acting Chair for the last month. His previous position of Vice Chair currently remains open.

Old Business:

STC Trust Fund and Procedures Manual: Art indicated that the proposed procedures manual will now be handled by the new STC Procedures Committee.

Public/Commission Member Comments/Suggestions:

Helen reported on STC funds as reported to her by Sue Bacorn, Deputy Treasurer. There is a balance of \$2,028.50 in the STC Trust Fund and \$315.75 available to the STC in the City budget. The City transferred over \$3,000 from the STC Trust Fund to supplement revenue in the City budget for this year.

Helen said she would work with City staff in fixing problems with the City website and the Tree Action Request form.

Tom asked permission to trim trees planted in connection with the Church Street project but were planted elsewhere given the lack of sites agreeable to property owners. Sue agreed to assist. *Art made a motion, seconded by Tom, that permission be granted with notification of property owners. All votes in favor except Rich who abstained.*

Tom asked that the STC request the City to contact NJ DOT about removing three dead ash trees on N. Main Street, a state highway, south of York Street. Rich indicated that there were additional trees that should be removed on N. Main Street. He will provide Art with the street addresses of the dead trees. *Tom made a motion, seconded by Sue, that that the STC send a memo to the mayor and council requesting that the City contact the NJ Department of Transportation to request removal all dead trees along N. Main Street (State Route 29). All voted in favor.*

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Tom Ogren
Recording Secretary