

**City of Lambertville
SHADE TREE COMMISSION**

Minutes of June 27, 2022 Meeting

Attending the meeting were members Art Legere, Helen Pettit, Susan Wydick, Rich Mowry, Lisa Nichols and Tom Ogren. Chairman Legere, convened the meeting at 7:30 pm. The meeting was held in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act at the Justice Center.

Approval of Minutes:

Art made a motion, seconded by Sue, to approve the corrected minutes of the May 23, 2022 meeting. All voted in favor.

New STC Members

Art introduced and welcomed Lisa Nichols who he swore in as a new member of the STC.

Public Attendee Issues/Requests: None

New STC Meeting Structure: Art expressed his desire that the work of subcommittees should help limit STC meeting times to one hour. He expected the subcommittees to submit their recommendations at a STC meeting with a vote to be taken at the following meeting.

New Business - Tree Action Requests

1. 48 Delaware - Tree Action Request: Property owner Albert Bauer requested approval to trim low branches on a Cherry tree in front of his house. *Art made a motion, seconded by Tom that the request be approved. All voted in favor except Rich who abstained.*
2. 6 Buttonwood - Tree Action Request: Homeowner Helen Pettit requested approval to expand the tree pit area of a Zelkova tree in front of her house. *Art made a motion, seconded by Sue, that the request be approved. All voted in favor except Helen who abstained.*
3. 46 Delaware - Tree Action Request: Homeowner Albert Bauer requested approval to trim a Red Maple in front of his house. *Art made a motion, seconded by Sue, that the request be approved. All voted in favor except Rich who abstained.*
4. 67 Delaware - Tree Action Request: Homeowner Patrick Gallagher requested approval to trim branches of a Zelkova tree away from his house. *Tom made a motion, seconded by Sue, that the request be approved. All voted in favor.*

5. 103 N. Union - Tree Action Request: Homeowner Art Legere requested approval to trim branches of a Locust tree away from his house. *Sue made a motion, seconded by Lisa, that the request be approved. All voted in favor except Art who abstained.*

6. 50 Buttonwood - Tree Action Request: Homeowner Nancy Kienzler requested approval to trim two Pear trees away from her house. *Art made a motion, seconded by Lisa, that the request be approved. All voted in favor.*

7. 92 N. Union - Tree Action Request: Homeowner Jim Amon requested approval to grind down a large root of a Pin Oak protruding several inches above the sidewalk of his neighbor's property at 94 N. Union. Having the written consent of neighbor Tim Dugan, *Art made a motion, seconded by Helen, that the request be approved. All voted in favor except Rich who abstained.*

8. 119 Clinton - Tree Action Request: Homeowner Kathy Culbertson requested approval to prune dead limbs of an Ash tree in front of her house and treat the tree for Emerald Ash Borer. *Art made a motion, seconded by Sue, that the request be approved. All voted in favor except Rich who abstained.*

9. 49 N. Main - Tree Action Request: Property owner Amy Everett requested approval to remove a healthy Maple tree along Coryell Street which she said had roots clogging the storm drain from the laundry mat. *Art made a motion, seconded by Tom, that the request be denied without further justification from the property owner. STC members will meet on site with the owner.*

10. 27 Buttonwood (on the agenda as No. 25): Homeowner Julie Howard of 27 Buttonwood submitted an email request for approval to install a tree box for an existing tree at 25 Buttonwood. There were concerns about the box damaging the root crown. *Art made a motion, seconded by Rich, that the request be denied. All voted in favor. Rich will meet with the owners to discuss the impact on the root crown.*

11. 214 Holcombe Way - Tree Action Request: Homeowner Robert Engelhart requested approval to remove a healthy Ash tree in front of his house. *Tom made a motion, seconded by Sue, that the request be denied since the homeowners' association as required had not reviewed the request. All voted in favor.*

New Business - Other

1. Vice Chair Nominations: Deferred to next meeting.

2. STC Authority to Stop Unapproved Tree Work: Art indicated that STC members have the authority to stop work being done by a contractor without STC approval. Police can be summoned.

3. Supply and Delivery of Trees for Riparian Tree Grant 2022 - Helen handed out a list of four landscaping companies and the bids they submitted to supply and deliver trees under the Riparian Tree Grant. Coles Nurseries submitted the low bid of \$2,190. *Helen made a motion, seconded by Art, that the low bid be accepted. All voted in favor.*

Old Business:

Jurisdiction Zone Clarification: Art indicated that his reading of the ordinance did not give the STC authority over trees in City parks except within the defined jurisdiction zone. Tom had raised the question given the section referring to STC authority for trees within City parks and the ability of the STC to plant Arbor Day trees in Ely Park. If the STC had to consult with the Parks and Recreation Commission on park tree planting, Tom suggested that the Parks and Recreation Commission should in turn consult with the STC on any shade tree planting in City parks.

Subcommittee Reports:

Shade Tree Inventory: Art reported that the grant application for shade tree inventory software had been completed and would be submitted to the NJ Community Forestry Program by the July deadline.

Public/Commission Member Comments/Suggestions:

1. Tom reported that he received requests from nearby residents that the Pin oak tree in the rear of Sheridan Park (with branches over George Street) was dying and should be removed.
2. Helen mentioned that a large tree on York Street near the Post Office had been removed without STC approval.
3. Sue suggested that the online Tree Action Request form should be simplified and made easier to access.

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

Tom Ogren
Recording Secretary