

City of Lambertville
SHADE TREE COMMISSION

Minutes of August 22, 2022 Meeting

Attending the meeting were members Art Legere, Helen Pettit, Susan Wydick, Lisa Nichols, Dan Seiter and Tom Ogren. Rich Mowry was absent. Chairman Legere, 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:

Art made a motion, seconded by Dan, to approve the corrected minutes of the July 25, 2022 meeting. All voted in favor.

Public Attendee Issues/Requests: None

New Business:

1. 10 Church Street: A referral from the Police Department for hazardous dead branches. *Dan made a motion, seconded by Tom, that a notice of violation for hazardous dead tree limbs be sent to the owner. All voted in favor.*

2. 33 Buttonwood Street - Tree Action Request (SDL 22-00024): Due to a late submission and incompleteness of the application, *Art made a motion, seconded by Dan, that the request be tabled for the next meeting. All voted in favor.*

Old Business:

1. 71 N. Union Street: A large dead ash tree in the rear yard near the Post Office under the jurisdiction of the STC was removed by the property owner without authorization from the STC. After being alerted to this omission, the property owner emailed an apology indicating he was unaware of the need for approval. He also had his tree service confirm by email that the tree was dead and in need of removal. Commission members concurred that, based upon information submitted by the property owner, removal of the tree would have been approved. *Lisa made a motion, seconded by Dan, that the penalty shall be waived for failure to receive approval from the STC and the property owner should be requested to plant a replacement tree." All voted in favor.*

2. 27 Buttonwood Street: It was reported that the tree box at the base of the tree which had been a concern of the STC was removed. No further action was necessary.

3. 49 N. Main Street: It was reported that Lambertville MUA and Fire Company personnel cleared the blockage from the storm drain which serves the adjoining property and by so doing resolved the water back-up into the laundromat basement."

Therefore the request to remove a nearby tree (SDL 22-00022), whose roots may have caused a blockage, was considered moot.

4. 7 Delevan Street: The engineer for redevelopment of the former auto parts store requested approval for planting three redbud trees along Clinton Street to meet a condition of site plan approval. The developer also indicated that the islands in the parking area, which were to be planted with trees, were deleted from the final site plan as shown on the landscaping plan attached to his email. *Art made a motion, seconded by Lisa, that Art call the engineer to indicate that the STC requested the planting of three crabapples trees, not redbud trees, along Clinton Street (consistent with a letter to the Reynolds Group dated March 29, 2021, and confirmed by letter to the Reynolds Group dated August 1, 2022) All voted in favor.*

5. Riparian Tree Grant: Helen reported that Rutgers Landscape and Nursery and Octoraro Native Plant Nursery submitted bids for Phase II trees under the Riparian Tree Grant for Option 1 and Option 2 respectively. No other nurseries submitted bids. *Art made a motion, seconded by Dan, that the bids be accepted with Sue deleting some trees so that the total cost did not exceed the balance of grant funds available. All voted in favor.*

6. 73 Bridge Street: This small street tree was severely trimmed without STC authorization. *Dan made a motion, seconded by Art, that a notice of violation for unauthorized tree work be sent to the owner. All voted in favor.*

New Treasurer Position:

Art proposed creating a new treasurer position and nominated Lisa for the position. With no other nominations made, *Art made a position, seconded by Dan, that Lisa fill the position. All voted in favor.*

Subcommittee Reports:

Art reported that the STC ordinance subcommittee met and was drafting revisions which he thought could be approved by the end of the year.

Announcements:

Sue mentioned that the NJ Shade Tree Federation's annual meeting will take place in October and that members should consider attending. (Attendees earn Continuing Education credits necessary to retain the approved status of the STC under the NJ Urban and Community Forestry Program. Eight credits must be earned each year.)

Public/Commission Members Comments:

Sue reported that there were two dead street trees at the corner of Main and Church Streets by the Verizon building. *Sue made a motion, seconded by Lisa, that a notice of tree hazard for hazardous trees be sent to Verizon. All voted in favor.*

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Tom Ogren
Recording Secretary