

City of Lambertville
SHADE TREE COMMISSION

Minutes of October 24, 2022 Meeting

Attending the meeting at the Justice Center were members Art Legere, Dan Seiter, Helen Pettit, Susan Wydick, and Tom Ogren. Lisa Nichols was absent. Chair Legere convened the meeting at 7:37 pm. He stated that the meeting was held in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

Approval of Minutes:

Dan made a motion, seconded by Helen, to approve the minutes of the September 26, 2022 meeting. All voted in favor.

Public Attendee Issues/Requests: None

New Business:

1. 71 N. Union Street: Art reported that the property owner, Joe Caprio of Cranford Partners, agreed to plant a replacement tree for the tree he had removed without approval of the STC. *A letter will be sent to confirm the planting of a new tree to be selected from the large tree category on the Recommended Street Tree List.*

2. 33 Buttonwood Street - Tree Action Request (22-24): Property owner William Zentmayor of KM133 LLC requested approval to trim a dogwood along George Street and a Hedge maple along Buttonwood with branches that extend to utility lines and the house. *Tom made a motion, seconded by Dan, that the request be approved. All voted in favor.*

3. 59 Buttonwood Street - Tree Action Request (22-25): Homeowner Kristin Hara requested approval to remove a Redbud tree that had a split trunk and plant a new tree. *Dan made a motion, seconded by Sue, that the request for tree removal and replacement be approved with a new tree to be selected from the Recommended Street Tree List. All voted in favor.*

4. 278 Holcombe Way - Tree Action Request (22-31): Homeowner Maria Middleberg requested approval to remove a dead Linden tree and replace it with a new tree (Chinquapin oak). A letter from the homeowners' association agreed with the proposed action. A photo of the dead Linden was not included in the application but was observed by Dan. *Dan made a motion, seconded by Art, that the request be approved. All voted in favor except Helen who voted 'no' (given the absence of a photo of the dead Linden).*

5. 237 N. Union Street - Tree Action Request (22-30): Marc Currie of C. A. Niece Company requested approval to trim a pear tree and Arborvitae away from utility lines and its building. *Art made a motion, seconded by Tom, that the request be approved. All voted in favor.*

6. 44 N. Main Street: Art indicated that stumps remained from the removal of two dead ash trees last summer by JCP&L. Art will confirm with property owner Joe Capio of TBC Partners that he will remove the stumps. A third dead ash tree was removed by JCP&L on the adjacent property with the stump left.

7. Funding for Tree Planting: Art reported that the Shade Tree Planting Trust Fund had a current balance of about \$2,000. The City will provide him with print-outs of the Trust Fund balance on a regular basis in the future and consult the STC on any expenditures from the Fund..

Old Business

1. 7 Delevan: Art will again confirm with the project engineer the requirement to plant three crabapple trees along the Clinton Street frontage.

2. Riparian Tree Grant Update: Sue reported that she received a quote from Rutgers Nursery to plant four additional trees in flooded areas. This purchase will use up nearly all remaining grant funds. She and Tom will look for possible planting locations. Twenty small trees were recently planted.

3. Arbor Day Tree: Art reported that the contractor who provided the tree will not seek payment from the City.

4. 73 Bridge Street: The property owner has not yet responded to the letter regarding the unauthorized trimming of the street tree. Next steps will be reviewed by the City attorney according to Helen.

5. 10 Church Street: Tom reported that the dead ash tree had been removed in response to the STC notice of hazardous condition.

Subcommittee Rerports

Helen indicated that the committee is nearing completion of proposed amendments to the Shade Tree ordinance.

Other Business:

1. Continuing Education Credits: Art asked Tom to send members the State training requirement for continuing the City's accreditation under the NJ Urban and Community Forestry Program.

2. STC Vacancies: Art will continue to contact someone willing to serve on the STC.
3. Need for Tree Planting Sites: Art indicated that a section of N. Main St. (from Coryell to Jefferson) is barren of trees and should be planted with new trees. He will ask property owner Joe Caprio about planting trees on his property at 44 N. Main Street.
4. 13 Lambert Lane - Tree Action Request (22-29): Since this was a timely request submitted last month, it was added to the agenda at the meeting. Property owner Zachary Simmons-Glover requested approval to trim dead limbs from a large ash tree next to the house. *Dan made a motion, seconded by Art, that the request be approved. All voted in favor.*

Public/Commission Member Comments:

Sue asked about getting trees planted in the sidewalk at the St. Johns church. No action was proposed. Art reported that he has discussed stump removal at the church site and other downtown locations with the mayor.

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

Tom Ogren
Recording Secretary