

City of Lambertville
SHADE TREE COMMISSION

Minutes of February 25, 2019 Meeting

Attending the meeting were members Art Legere, Brian Herzhauser, Helen Pettit, Susan Wydick, Rich Mowry and Tom Ogren. Jessica Campo was absent. Chair Brian Herzhauser convened the meeting at 7:30 pm. The meeting was held in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

Approval of Minutes: Tom made a motion, seconded by Art, to approve the minutes of the January 28th meeting with some additions proposed by Helen. All voted in favor.

New Business:

a. 45 Coryell Street Tree - Tree Action Request: Property owner Mike Attara explained why he wanted to remove a Red maple street tree in front of his house - roots extending toward house under uneven brick sidewalk and too small a space (22") between tree and front porch. He agreed to plant a smaller, more columnar tree in a better location beyond the porch where there was more space. Given site constraints, including nearby utilities, the STC agreed that a small caliper tree could be planted. A European Hornbeam tree was mentioned as a suitable replacement tree. Tom moved, seconded by Art, that the homeowner be allowed to remove the existing street tree and plant a replacement tree with a root barrier. All voted in favor.

b. Tree Inventory Update: Brian said that he had contacted the person suggested by Mayor Fahl, Shaun Ellis, about doing a tree inventory. Brian asked him to submit an estimate for the work.

c. Appointment of Liaison to Environmental Commission and Lambertville Goes Wild: Art proposed having a liaison who would consult with these groups in making revisions to the STC Recommended Street Tree list. Art suggested that Sue Wydick be appointed liaison and Sue agreed.

Old Business:

a. STC Ordinance Revision: Art distributed copies of a draft STC ordinance and explained several proposed revisions. Helen suggested a work session to review the draft. Brian agreed to schedule the work session before the next monthly meeting.

b. Clinton Street (Phase 2) Project: Brian indicated that he had contacted the City Clerk and Krista of T&M Associates, engineers for the project. Krista agreed to provide him with a full size set of plans.

c. 16 S. Union Street Tree Action Request: Helen indicated that a letter approving removal of the dead tree has been sent.

d. 58 Alexander Road - Tree Action Request: Brian indicated that homeowners Melissa Ege had complained about a low branch overhanging the street in front of her house but never received a letter from the STC and nothing was done about the tree. It was agreed that Helen is to send a letter to the City Clerk, copy to PW Director Lester Meyers, to request action since the tree is located on City property and is a City responsibility,

e. 158 N. Union Street Tree Action Request: It was mentioned that the STC had previously approved a request from homeowner Peter Ammirati to remove a small Tree lilac in front of his house and replace it with a much larger tree to provide more shade. As part of the approval, the homeowner agreed to give the removed tree to the City to plant elsewhere. There was a discussion about whether the homeowner or the City would remove and re-plant the tree. It was agreed that Brian would ask the homeowner to remove the tree and perhaps re-plant it.

f. Budget Request for 2019: Brian presented a list of items and cost estimates which could be the basis of a budget request to the mayor. The total cost estimate for education, a concrete saw, 15-20 new trees, and an Arbor Day tree was \$10,500. (Tree planting quotes had previously been provided by Helen and Art.) Brian also said that a cost estimate for a tree inventory to be expected soon would be added to that amount. Brian moved, seconded by Art, that the STC submit these items to the mayor as a budget request for this year. All voted in favor.

g. Tree Action Request form: There was a discussion about revising the online form to include some items from a hard copy version. Art agreed to follow-up on this and present the STC with a revised form.

h. Meeting Dates: It was agreed that the May meeting date, which falls on the Memorial Day holiday, should be changed to the preceding Monday, May 20th. Helen moved and Tom seconded to change the May meeting date. All voted in favor. Brian will follow-up with the City Clerk about the change.

Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:42 pm.

Tom Ogren
Secretary