

City of Lambertville
SHADE TREE COMMISSION

Minutes of March 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 7:35 pm. The meeting was held in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

Approval of Minutes: Art made a motion, seconded by Helen, to approve the minutes of the February 25th meeting. All voted in favor.

New Business:

a. 54 N. Main Street - Tree Action Request: A request was submitted by homeowner Patricia Florio concerning a Green ash tree in front of her home in the sidewalk. Since the tree raised a large concrete slab and was a tripping hazard, she requested permission to enlarge the tree pit (by removing the concrete slab). She also requested approval to trim the tree, and treat it (for Emerald Ash Borer). After a brief discussion, Tom moved, seconded by Helen, that the owner be permitted to 1) enlarge the tree pit providing a minimum 36" pedestrian passageway, 2) trim secondary branches near utility wires, and 3) treat the tree for Emerald Ash Borer. All voted in favor.

b. 219 Holcombe Way - Tree Action Request: Brian indicated that the tree the homeowner wanted to remove was outside the City r.o.w. and, therefore, not within the jurisdiction of the STC. Helen was to notify the homeowner of this finding by letter.

c. 18-22 Bridge Street - Tree Action Request: This request was submitted by David Morgan of the Delaware River Towns Chamber of Commerce to trim Pin oak trees in the sidewalk. At the meeting, the STC learned from Brian and Rich that the trees were located where the chamber erects banners across the street for special events. Rich indicated that T&T Tree Services was donating its time to trim the trees and erect a banner. Helen expressed a desire to see the trees before voting. Tom mentioned that the trees should be trimmed before Shad Fest. Given this upcoming event, Tom then moved, seconded by Sue, that the Chamber be permitted to trim branches on two oak trees which interfered with the banner. Brian, Art, Sue, and Tom voted in favor. Helen and Rich abstained.

d. 195 N. Main Street: The homeowner, Shannon Dallas, had emailed the STC with her concern about a hanging branch from a street tree in front of her house. Brian reported that he had visited the site and determined that removal of this small branch hanging over N. Main Street was less than 10 feet high. Given this height and that the branch was hanging, it was agreed that the branch could be cut without the STC taking any formal action.

e. Clinton Street Project: Brian indicated that he had received from the City engineer for the project large plan streets which contained diagram and specifications for tree planting. Brian was still waiting for a full set of project plans but was told that they are still being worked on.

Old Business:

a. Recommended Tree List: Brian indicated that he would be meeting with Sue to review a revised list.

b. STC Ordinance Revision: Art indicated that he was still working on a draft and would be submitting a revised draft to the STC for the next meeting.

c. Tree Inventory: No discussion.

d. Arbor Day: Tom mentioned that the City's Community Forestry Management Plan indicated that the STC would commemorate Arbor Day (apparently for the first time). As part of this, he said that the mayor should issue an Arbor Day proclamation similar to that prepared by the National Arbor Day Foundation. He gave a copy of a draft proclamation to Brian who indicated that Sue would follow up on getting the proclamation to the mayor (to be included on a City Council meeting agenda before Arbor Day). Brian indicated that he had requested City funds in this year's budget for a tree to plant on Arbor Day. Rich asked whether there was any master plan for Ely Field which would help in siting a tree.

e. 16 S. Union Street Tree Action Request: Helen asked if she should send another letter to the homeowner to clarify his obligation to plant one or two replacement trees (after removing a large dead tree in the sidewalk). STC members agreed that Helen should send a second letter withdrawing the requirement in her previous letter that the homeowner plant two replacement trees since this was not part of the prior approval to remove the dead tree.

Public Comments: City resident Judy Detrano spoke about her concern with the NJ Water Supply Authority cutting down trees and shrubs along the west side of the D&R Canal north of Bridge Street. She indicated that she had contacted Mayor Fahl to prevent the removal of a large tree near the Bank of Princeton. As a result, this tree was saved. City resident Chris Plummer also expressed concern. Both Judy and Chris had tried to determine what other state agencies have jurisdiction over the canal bank including the D&R Canal Commission and the State Park Service. Brian indicated that the STC had no jurisdiction over trees on state property which were not street trees. After a lengthy discussion, it was agreed that Helen should draft a memo for Brian to send to Mayor Fahl expressing the concern of the STC with the tree removal.

Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Tom Ogren
Secretary

