

**City of Lambertville**  
**SHADE TREE COMMISSION**

**Minutes of April 29, 2019 Meeting**

Attending the meeting were members Art Legere, Brian Herzhauser, Helen Pettit, Susan Wydick, Rich Mowry, Tom Ogren and Jessica Campo. Chair Brian Herzhauser convened the meeting at 7:40 pm. The meeting was held in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

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

**New Business:**

a. 34 Jefferson St. - Tree Action Request: Homeowner Wardell Sanders submitted a request to plant a European Hornbeam in front of his house. Tom made a motion, seconded by Art, to approve the request. All voted in favor.

b. 32 Elm St. - Tree Action Request: Homeowner Jeffrey Weinberger submitted a request to trim branches and/or remove a Honey Locust tree located in front of his neighbor's house at 34 Elm Street. Recognizing that the branches from the tree were growing over the roof of the house and property at 32 Elm Street, Sue moved, seconded by Jess, that the homeowner be allowed to trim braches extending over his house and property provided that the trimming does not damage the tree. All voted in favor.

c. 161 N. Main St. - Tree Action Request: Homeowner Tracy Dean Moore submitted a second request to remove the Zelkova tree in front of his house since he claimed that it raised the sidewalk and was too close to a sewer line. Recognizing that there was no change in the sidewalk repair which would cause a re-consideration, Art moved, seconded by Helen, to deny the request for tree removal. All voted in favor.

d. Ely Field - Excavation by Trees: The STC members discussed the recent excavation of a long trench within a few feet of a row of trees which had been planted by NJ DOT along N. Main Street. The trench was excavated for electrical wires in connection with a proposed new fence along Ely Field. Members expressed concern that the excavation damaged tree roots and may fatally injure the trees. Members agreed that Brian should share this concern with the mayor and check the specifications for the work affecting the trees. Rich offered to take photos of the trenching to document the root damage.

e. Grant Application for Tree Inventory: Brian indicated that he was meeting with Liz of the Environmental Commission to discuss submitting a Stewardship grant application to the NJ Community Forestry Program to create a tree inventory. The deadline is May 29. The STC concurred with the submission.

f. Information Item: Heather Martin submitted information about hiring a contractor to aerate compacted soil to benefit the roots of a large Ash tree in her back yard which is adjacent to Sheridan Park. The aeration would extend into the park and require co-operation from the Public Works Department.

**Old Business:**

a. STC Ordinance Revision: Art had emailed to STC members a revised draft ordinance and gave a brief summary of the ordinance. There was discussion about the minimum tree caliper size required for replacement trees and how to describe the area along streets that was within the purview of the STC. Helen made a motion, seconded by Art, that Brian present the final draft ordinance to the mayor. All voted in favor.

**Member Comments:**

Art suggested that the City website allow homeowners to request that a tree be planted in front of their home.

Sue indicated that she submitted an Arbor Day proclamation for the mayor to issue at the last Council meeting.

Brian reported that a representative of St. John's church notified him that two Princeton elm trees would soon be planted in front of the church as replacement trees for trees removed last year.

**Adjournment:** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Tom Ogren  
Secretary