

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

**Minutes of May 20, 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:** Art made a motion, seconded by Sue, to approve the minutes of the April 29th meeting. All voted in favor.

**New Business:**

a. 84 Coryell St. - Tree Action Request: Homeowner Kathy Williams, who attended the meeting with her husband, requested approval to trim an ash tree located in front of her neighbor's house. She explained that a tree limb was overhanging her house and impeding water flow in her gutter. She indicated that her neighbor had no objection to the trimming. Photos of the tree limbs were shown at the meeting. Art made a motion, seconded by Brian, that the request to trim the tree be approved. All voted in favor.

b. 14 Lambert Lane - Tree Action Request: Housing developer Louis Bodine requested approval to remove two large cherry trees in the r.o.w. (other trees proposed for removal were outside the r.o.w.). After talking to the developer, Brian suggested postponing action on his request until the June meeting. The STC discussed whether to deny the request for tree removal or allow the removal and request the developer at the next meeting to plant "replacement trees" on and off site. The consensus was for the latter option.

The consensus was also reached to send a memo to the Planning Board in advance of the Planning Board's consideration of the developer's proposed site plan. The concern of members was that any Planning Board approval to remove trees in the right of way would make the Shade Tree Commission's determination on a Tree Action Request moot. A memo to the Planning Board should make the Shade Tree Commission's concerns clear and request the Planning Board's deference to the Shade Tree Commission's jurisdiction over the trees within the right of way.

**Old Business:**

a. Ely Field - Excavation by Trees: Rich reported on his investigation of the damage the excavation had caused to a row of 20 maple trees along the fence at Ely Field. Rich prepared a detailed written report with photos indicating the distance of the excavation from each tree and how tree roots and trunks were affected by the excavation. The STC agreed that the report should be sent to the mayor and City engineer.

b. STC Ordinance Revision: Art had emailed to STC members the latest draft ordinance with minor revisions. Tom suggested that the deadline for submitting tree action requests before the next STC meeting be reduced to 5 or 7 days. All agreed on 7 days. As authorized at the last meeting, the draft ordinance will be sent to the mayor.

d. Grant Application for Tree Inventory: Brian indicated that he met with Liz of the Environmental Commission to prepare a Stewardship grant application to the NJ Community Forestry Program to create a tree inventory. The grant request would be \$10,000. The deadline is May 29. Tom asked about Council authorization to submit the application. Since Tree City USA designation would make the grant application more competitive, Brian suggested that this be considered in the future. Eligibility for the designation will be explored.

d. Recommended Tree List: This item was postponed to the following month.

**Member Comments:**

Tom reported that he and Stew Palilonis recently trimmed about a dozen street trees in the downtown on Union and Church Streets.

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

Tom Ogren  
Secretary