

**CITY OF LAMBERTVILLE  
SHADE TREE COMMISSION**

**MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 26, 2019 MEETING**

**Agenda Item 1. Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 7:40PM by the Chair, Brian Herzhauser, in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act. A copy of the Agenda and the minutes were posted on the website and the bulletin board of the City of Lambertville.

**Agenda Item 2. Roll Call:**

Brian Herzhauser, Chair, called the roll as follows:

*Present:* Chair Brian Herzhauser, Rich Mowry, Jessica Campo, Helen Pettit, Susan Wydick, and Vice Chair Art Legere

*Absent:* Tom Ogren

**Agenda Item 3. Approval of July 29, 2019 Meeting Minutes:**

The Draft Minutes for the July 29, 2019, Meeting were circulated by Tom Ogren by email on August 13, 2019. Ms. Pettit commented that the reference to "Township" on the top of the second page should be corrected to read "City." With that correction Chair Herzhauser requested a motion to approve the minutes.

*Motion to Approve the Minutes by:* Mr. Legere

*Seconded by:* Ms. Wydick

*Vote:* Approved; Unanimous

**Agenda Item 12. Public Comments**

There being only one member of the public present at the meeting, Mary Anne Borge representing Lambertville Goes Wild, the Chair acted to take Public Comments out of Agenda order as the next order of business. Chair Herzhauser recognized Ms. Borge, and she stated that her business was to inquire about the status of the Shade Tree Commission's adoption of Lambertville Goes Wild's list of recommended native trees. Mr. Legere and Ms. Pettit advised Ms. Borge that the City Council had just adopted the Shade Tree Ordinance. The new Shade Tree Ordinance provides for the Shade Tree Commission to determine species, size, and location of new and replacement trees within the Jurisdiction Zone. It was the consensus of the Commission that the list of native trees developed by the Lambertville Goes Wild organization would be a suitable addition to the Commission's Recommended Street Tree List. Accordingly, Mr. Herzhauser requested a motion to that effect.

MOTION: To include the Lambertville Goes Wild list of Recommended Street Trees as set forth in Attachment No. 1 to augment the Shade Tree Commission's existing list of Recommended Street Trees for planting in the Commission's Jurisdiction Zone.

*Motion to Approve the Moved by:* Ms. Wydick

*Seconded by:* Mr. Mowry

*Vote:* Approved; Unanimous

(Shade Tree Commission Minutes of 8/26/19; Continued:)

**Agenda Items 4 - 8. New Business**

**Tree Action Request - Hackl, 2 Jefferson Street (Oak Tree)**

The request is to prune dead wood and branches which are touching the roof. Commission members commented on their inspection of the tree. It was the consensus of the Commission that the tree was vigorous and a valuable asset to the City, however the encroachment of the branches on the roof was problematic and these could be pruned over the roof within 10 feet above the roof. There were also a number of dead branches that could be safely removed from the crown without impairing the health of the tree. In addition some pruning of secondary branches over the road might also be acceptable. However, the consensus was that no crown cleaning or thinning should be allowed, and the Commission should send a representative to meet with the Ms. Hackl and her contractor prior to initiation of any work to clarify the Commission's specifications for the work. Ms. Campo reminded the members that pursuant to NJ Statute, tree work must be performed by a licensed Tree Care Operator or Tree Care Expert. Ms. Pettit agreed to include that statutory requirement as part of the standard language in all future Letters of Determination. Chair Herzhauser requested a motion to approve the request to prune the Oak Tree at 2 Jefferson Street subject to the conditions as discussed.

*Motion to Approve Pruning and Trimming Oak Tree at 2 Jefferson Street subject to detailed conditions Moved by: Mr. Legere*

*Seconded by: Mr. Mowry*

*Vote: Unanimous*

**Adoption of Shade Tree Ordinance:** Mr. Legere reported that the City Council has now officially adopted our Shade Tree Ordinance, and we are now authorized to enforce against any violations.

**Kalmia Club - Oak Tree Removal**

Mr. Herzhauser advised that the Oak Tree in front of Kalmia Club is dying and must be removed. The City anticipates that JCP&L will trim down the crown to protect their wires and that the City will take responsibility for removing the rest of the tree.

**Tree Action Request - Lamberts Hill Association, 299 Holcombe Way (Siberian Elm)**

The request is to remove and replace a section of sidewalk that has been up-heaved by the root of a Siberian Elm and to remove the surface root of the tree that has caused the sidewalk to heave. Commission members commented on their inspection of the situation and the consensus was that the tree was too close to the sidewalk. Replacement of the heaved sidewalk block could be approved and the surface root could be trimmed back, but heaving would recur. The members concluded that a root barrier should be installed to prevent roots from heaving the sidewalk and the adjacent driveway.

*Motion to Approve replacement of the heaved Sidewalk Section and trim surface root with a recommendation to install root barriers Moved by: Mr. Herzhauser*

*Seconded: Ms. Campo*

*Vote: Unanimous*

(Shade Tree Commission Minutes of 8/26/19; Continued:)

**Agenda Items 9 and 10. Old Business**

Commission Budget - Mr. Herzhauser indicated that the members of the Commission's Budget Committee (Mr. Ogren, Mr. Legere and Mr. Herzhauser) would have to meet soon to develop the plans to utilize the monies allocated to the Commission for this fiscal year. It was the consensus of the members that replanting trees on Church Street should be a high priority.

Newsletter Topic - Mr. Herzhauser requested suggestions to include in the City's Newsletter. The consensus of the members was that the City Council's adoption of our new Shade Tree Ordinance was the most newsworthy item.

**Agenda Item 11. Announcements**

Mr. Mowry announced that the Natural Lands Trust gets reimbursed for tree planting projects, and the Commission should keep that in mind as a mechanism to increase the number of trees we plant.

**Agenda Item 13. Adjournment**

There being no further business, Mr. Herzhauser requested a motion to adjourn.

*Motion to Adjourn Moved by:* Ms. Pettit

*Seconded by:* Ms. Wydick

*Vote:* Unanimous

Meeting was adjourned at 8:33PM

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED

BY: Helen Pettit (Acting Recording Secretary)