

Lambertville Shade Tree Commission

November 28, 2013 7:30 pm Pittore Justice Center

Meeting minutes for open meeting

1. Statement of Compliance

2. Roll Call

Present: Irene Rudolph, Emily Goldman, Dr. Legere, Sue Wydick

3. Approval of Minutes

Minutes from October 29, 2013 meeting were approved.

4. New Business

A. LSTC should consider revising the Ordinance to allow LSTC to designate tree locations and types within the CBD, even over owner's wishes, to maintain the canopy.

B. Art proposed Ordinance should indicate that any shade tree violation fine money should go to pay for replacement trees, (not maintenance). We can NOT enter agreement with owners that "if____, then ____.

C. Nancy Carper on Church Street has an empty planting bed at her new house and wants to plant a new tree. Emily had told her it would be approved, and we recommended Honey Locust, Linden or Zelkova.

D. 251 N. Union—did replace a removed tree and did a good job.

5. Old Business

A. 13 N. Union – Ronica Bregenzer, Architect for the applicant: Irsfeld Operating LLC, appeared.

She had sent photos of the tree to Patrick Logan at Bartlett tree experts. The response was that the tree had outgrown the space, caused tripping hazards, hangs over the roof and into wires, and that fixing the bricks would cause the tree to go into decline. He also stated that the typical life of a street tree is about 20 years. The owners would consider replacing the tree. The commissioners state that if the large oak is removed, the owners need to plant 2 new trees as replacements. Upon permission to remove the tree, two trees would be required for replacement, and one would be planted on the lot to maintain the canopy. A second tree should be planted at the empty space adjacent to Tomaselo. The owners will let us know Bartlett's recommendations. Replacement planting should be done by November 2014.

B. 114 N. Union—removal of 28” Red Oak. A letter had been sent to Hannolds on August 21 allowing the removal of a tree, but did not specify that it was only for the small dead Dogwood on the property. The letter did not specify permission to remove two trees including the healthy Oak.

Emily had gotten a call from a different tree service to remove the dogwood. Shire tree service was contracted to remove the Oak, and even question why the tree was being removed. The owner said the tree was to be removed due to reconstruction of N. Union street and they had been given permission by the Mayor at the public meeting about that construction (not true). The owner said they had a letter of approval, but could not produce it. The tree had already been so damaged, that stopping the removal when Irene and Art saw it happening would have been too late. This had been a “legacy tree” and the removal has upset residents.

C. Art composed a letter/notice to contractors explaining the requirement for LSTC written approval, before any tree work on public ROW can be done. We can keep these in our cars and to present to anyone we see doing work. Emily will add to the City Directory.

D. The Lambertville land use ordinance DOES discuss “Legacy trees”.

E. Tree Action Request form / process. Emily gave the status of review by 2 council members. Should include a statement about the value of trees.

F. Proposed Ordinance revisions were discussed. Members need to seriously look at it and make suggestions for improvements.

G. Court Liaison—Irene will do this.

H. Tree at the Library to be removed, which tree?

Public Comment None

Adjournment Next meeting would occur on New Year’s Eve, so will be cancelled. Reorganization meeting will be January 28, 2014. Meeting was adjourned at 8:51.