

City of Lambertville

SHADE TREE COMMISSION

Minutes of April 23, 2018 Meeting

Attending the meeting were members Emily Goldman, Deborah Galen, and Tom Ogren. Mayor DelVecchio also attended a portion of the meeting. Susan Wydick and Art Legere were absent. Emily as chair convened the meeting at 7:40 pm. The meeting was held in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

Approval of Minutes: Deborah made a motion, seconded by Tom, to approve the minutes of the February 26, 2018 meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

New Business:

a. Ashtag App Presentation: Lambertville resident Shawn Ellis gave a presentation on an app for geo-locating ash trees. The app was first used in Princeton to assist in finding out the number and location of ash trees which could become affected by the Emerald Ash Borer. Shawn thought that Lambertville could benefit from having volunteers use the app.

b. Alternate Members: Mayor DelVecchio suggested that alternate members be appointed to the Commission to substitute for absent members. A couple names of people who might be interested were mentioned.

c. Nominations for chairperson: Emily, who often has a work related conflict on meeting nights,, will continue serving as chair for now.

Old Business:

a. Community Forestry Management Plan: Emily reported that the NJ Forest Service had approved the City's plan. The Commission will need to address annual goals in the plan and report back to DEP on plan implementation. Mayor DelVecchio noted that, given the plan approval, the City is now eligible for state tree related grants. *He asked Emily to contact the City's grant consultant to follow-up on submitting a grant application.* (The deadline for this year's Tree Stewardship grant applications was April 24.)

b. Bacterial Leaf Scorch: Mayor DelVecchio asked about the status of trees with this disease. It was noted that there are some Pin oaks on Bridge St. and N. Union St. which could die from the disease and that some Pin oaks downtown, most recently at the Caffè Galeria, have been removed.

c. Ash trees and Emerald Ash Borer: Mayor DelVecchio mentioned that homeowner associations "on the hill" have contacted him about the Emerald Ash Borer problem. Tom reported that he had responded to an email from someone in the Woodcrest development.

There was a discussion about ash trees in public parks and along streets which could become affected. Tom distributed a list of 15 ash trees located in the public r.o.w. and 9 more in Cavello Park. The list included an estimate for removal by size of tree. The possibility of treating ash trees in Cavello Park was mentioned. Tom reported that Emerald Ash Borer information has now been posted on the City website.

d. Trees in Public Parks: Mayor DelVecchio asked about removal of a dying Sycamore tree at Ely Field. There was a consensus that it should be removed. He also asked if there was a concern about a tree in Sheridan Park. Deborah indicated that high winds have broken limbs on the large White pine tree and that one limb was hanging down and needed to be removed. Lastly, the mayor asked about the cost of treating ash trees in Cavello Park. *He asked Emily to get a price quote for removal of the Sycamore, cutting any hanging White pine tree limbs, and treating the Cavello Park ash trees.*

e. Shade Tree Ordinance Revision: The need to proceed promptly with a revised ordinance was recognized. Tom distributed copies of a draft ordinance which was based on the previous draft ordinance but was shorter. He pointed out that the ordinance revision would fix responsibility for street tree removal (i.e. with the adjacent land owner), create a trust fund to accept donations for tree planting, and establish an advisory role for the Commission for public park and street tree planting/removal, among other provisions. The latest draft deleted the definition section from the earlier draft but included a definition for "street trees."

There was a discussion about whether homeowners who remove dead or dying trees as approved by the Commission, such as ash trees, would be required to plant replacement trees. Past policy, but not stated in the ordinance, was to require replacement. Tom's draft only required replacement when trees were removed without Commission approval. As an alternative, there was consideration to exempting removal of dead ash trees from the replacement requirement. Waiving the requirement just for ash trees and not other dead trees was questioned. *Emily offered to review both draft ordinances so that a revised ordinance could be submitted to the mayor soon for consideration by the City Council.*

f. Clinton Street Project: Tom mentioned that he had contacted the City's engineering consultant, T&M Associates, about plans for phase 2. He proposed that the plans include the planting of replacement trees in 5 empty tree pits on the east side of Clinton Street. It was agreed that small flowering trees, such as cherry trees, would be appropriate for the location. *Emily offered to contact T&M Associates with our recommendation for tree planting.*

g. CORE Training: Tom Ogren reported that the City Clerk has registered him for CORE training on May 5th.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn the meeting was unanimously approved at 8:35 pm.

Tom Ogren,
Secretary

