

City of Lambertville
SHADE TREE COMMISSION

Minutes of June 25, 2018 Meeting

Attending the meeting were members Emily Goldman, Art Legere, Susan Wydick, Jessica Campo, and Tom Ogren. Deborah Galen and Helen Pettit 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: Emily indicated that minutes for the May 30th meeting were unavailable and will be considered at the next meeting.

New Business:

a. 158 N. Union Street - Tree Action Request: Homeowners Peter Amatti and Maria McGrath appeared in person to request approval for replacing a small Tree Lilac in front of their house with a large shade tree. Their reason for doing so was to provide afternoon shade for their porch and home on the east side of the street. They agreed to pay for a replacement tree and suggested planting a London Plane tree this fall. A motion to approve their request was made by Tom Ogren and seconded by Art Legere. The motion was approved unanimously. The Commission indicated that they may want to transplant the Tree Lilac to another site.

b. 178 N. Union Street - Tree Action Request: The homeowner at this address submitted a Tree Action Request to remove a small Oak tree in front of their neighbor's house at 180 N. Union Street since it provides no shade. The Commission deferred action on the request until the neighbor could attend a Commission meeting to discuss a possible replacement tree.

Art suggested adding the Perfection Honeylocust to the STC "recommended street trees" list.

c. Street Tree Specifications: Item postponed to the next meeting due to Helen's absence.

d. Street Tree Trimming: Emily reported that Stew Palilonis offered to trim low branches on trees along Union Street in the downtown. Tom agreed to assist. The Commission okayed.

e. Dead Trees on Church Street: In addition to tree trimming, Tom suggested removing 4 dead Shadblow (Serviceberry) trees on the south side of Church Street which could be cut with a hand saw. He distributed photos of the 4 dead trees and 2 larger trees on the north side of the street. Art offered to contact Public Works Superintendent Lester Myers to ask if the trunks of the 4 trees should be left in place so that the trees could be "pulled out." If not, the Commission agreed that the trees could be cut down at their base. Emily wanted to send letters to the owners of

property on the north side requesting them to remove the 2 dead trees. She asked Tom to provide her with the names of the property owners.

Emily indicated that funds to plant replacement trees on Church Street could come from an escrow account required by the Planning Board for an applicant on Franklin St. (Funk n' Junk).

f. Dead Tree at 8 Bridge Street: Tom reported that the City might be removing this hazardous tree after getting NJ DOT approval (since it is in the state's r.o.w.). Emily indicated that the property owner had refused to remove it.

g. Dead Tree at Public Library: Emily reported that there was a large dead Ash tree on Ferry Street on the City-owned library property. She will send a letter to the City requesting removal and replacement with another tree.

h. Ash Trees at L-V Station and Inn: Susan suggested that a letter be sent to the owner requesting the removal or treatment of Ash trees between the parking lot and the river.

Old Business:

a. Bacterial Leaf Scorch: The continued threat to the large Pin Oaks in the downtown was briefly mentioned. Tom mentioned the possibility of the City obtaining a state Stewardship grant for downtown tree planting. Emily indicated that the City's grant consultant had been alerted to this grant source since the City now qualifies for such grants after receiving approval of its Community Forestry Management Plan.

b. Ash Trees and Emerald Ash Borer: Emily reported on the May 30th meeting with Hunterdon County naturalist Tom Sheppard. There was discussion about how to assist City property owners and homeowner associations with Ash tree treatment. To get a better price, Emily suggested that the City could issue an RFP for treatment based on tree diameter by the inch. Emily also indicated that she obtained a price for the City to treat 9 Ash trees in Cavello Park.

c. Ordinance Revision: Tom was asked to re-email his draft of a revised Shade Tree ordinance.

Art said he would provide comments to Tom.

d. Tree Inventory: A workshop on computerized tree mapping sponsored by Hunterdon County Shade Tree Commission was mentioned. Art expressed some interest in going.

e. Clinton Street Project: Emily reported that as a result of polling the board by email, she recommended to the City that the Crabapple tree at the SW corner of Clinton and Delaware be removed as proposed by the property owner. A quick decision on the tree was needed for the contractor on site. A replacement tree will be planted as part of phase two of the project according to Emily. Emily also reported that 5 additional street trees will be planted in empty tree pits along Clinton St. as part of phase two. Art suggested that Tree Lilacs be planted.

Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Tom Ogren

Secretary