

City of Lambertville

SHADE TREE COMMISSION

Minutes of January 22, 2018 Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairperson Art Legere at 7:35 pm in the absence of Chair Emily Goldman. Also attending were members Deborah Galen, Susan Wydick and Tom Ogren. The meeting was held in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

Elections of Officers: Deborah Galen made a motion, seconded by Sue Wydick, to continue Art Legere as Vice Chairperson. Motion was approved unanimously. Art Legere made a motion seconded by Sue Wydick to elect Tom Ogren as Secretary. Motion was approved unanimously.

Meeting Schedule: It was agreed that the Shade Tree Commission (STC) will continue to meet on the forth Monday of the month in 2018. Next month's meeting will be held on February 26th.

Approval of Minutes: Art Legere made a motion, seconded by Deborah Galen, to approve the minutes of the November 27, 2017 meeting. Motion was approved with Deborah Galen and Tom Ogren voting in favor and Art Legere and Susan Wydick abstaining.

New Business:

a. JCP&L Maintenance Trimming: Emily had informed the STC members of upcoming tree trimming and invited them to meet with representatives of JCP&L. There was general agreement that attending such a meeting would not be worthwhile given past experience. Deborah Galen may discuss attending with Emily.

b. Tree Action Request - 59 N. Franklin St.: Permission to trim the tree was granted by the STC in November with condition that the homeowner retain an arborist to determine which limbs would be removed. Deborah Galen will send letter to homeowner.

c. Tree Action Request - 161 N. Main St.: Permission to remove a large Japanese Zelkova tree was discussed including the nearby sewer line and the specific concern of the insurance company with the sidewalk. It was noted that the problem with the sidewalk has recently been fixed with a concrete patch. Based on existing information and the lack of any problem at this time, Deborah Galen made a motion, seconded by Tom Ogren, to deny permission to remove the tree was approved unanimously. Should tree roots affect the sewer line in the future, the STC will reconsider the matter. A letter will be sent to the homeowners.

Old Business:

a. Community Forestry Management Plan: Discussion was deferred to a future meeting.

Old Business Continued:

b. Bacterial Leaf Scorch Management Plan: Discussion was deferred to a future meeting.

c. Ash Trees and Emerald Ash Borer: Informing the public about the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) was discussed. There was general agreement to have information provided as a link to the City website and Lambertville Facebook site. The information could also be included with City tax bills. Tom will email to STC members the information he prepared for consideration.

d. Shade Tree Ordinance Revision: Some background on the draft ordinance revision done years ago was discussed. Tom Ogren mentioned that he had reviewed the draft ordinance and that he prepared a shorter and simpler version for consideration. Art Legere suggested that he and Tom review both drafts before the next meeting and that there be further discussion at that time. Tom Ogren will email the two draft ordinances to STC members.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn the meeting was unanimously approved at 8:27 pm.

Tom Ogren,
Secretary