

City of Lambertville
SHADE TREE COMMISSION

Minutes of July 23, 2018 Meeting

Attending the meeting were members Emily Goldman, Art Legere, Susan Wydick, Deborah Galen, Helen Pettit and Tom Ogren. Jessica Campo was absent. Emily as chair convened the meeting at 7:35 pm. The meeting was held in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

Approval of Minutes: Helen made a motion, seconded by Deborah, to approve the minutes of the May 30th meeting. All voted in favor with Art and Tom abstaining. Art made a motion, seconded by Tom to approve the minutes of the June 25th meeting. All voted in favor with Deborah and Helen abstaining.

New Business:

a. Sheridan Park - Tree Action Request: A request was submitted by Heather Martin, a neighbor at 41 York Street, for the City to remove a walnut tree next to her property to the rear of the Kalmia Clubhouse. She claimed that the tree adversely affected her garden. After the Commission questioned any adverse impact and finding no harm to the public caused by this healthy tree, Tom made a motion, seconded by Helen, that the request be denied. All voted in favor.

b. City-owned Tree on Alexander Ave. - Tree Action Request: A request was made by Melissa Ege, the homeowner at 58 Alexander Ave., that the City remove a "dead tree" across the street from her house which was overhanging street. After the Commission concluded that the tree was not dead and that the only concern was a low hanging branch in the middle of the street, Helen made a motion, seconded by Sue, that the Commission request the City Public Works Department to only remove the low hanging branch. All voted in favor.

c. 180 N. Union Street - Tree Action Request: Laura Papell, the homeowner at this address, appeared before the Commission to request permission to replace a small, columnar Oak tree in front of her house at her expense. This request had previously been made by her neighbor, Catherine Howard, at 178 N. Union Street but the Commission deferred action at the April meeting until hearing from the homeowner at 160 N. Union Street where the tree was located. After the Commission concluded that the request for a more substantial shade tree was beneficial at this location, Helen made a motion, seconded by Art, that the homeowner be permitted to replace the Oak tree with another tree from the Commission's approved tree list subject to the submission of a written Tree Action Request. All voted in favor. The homeowner was given a copy of the list.

d. Street Tree Specifications: Helen distributed copies of NJ DOT's Standard Specifications for Road and Bridge Construction which are part of the City's Engineer's specifications for the planting and protection of trees as a part of a City construction project. Emily asked

Commission members to review them for possible changes to conform with STC standards and comment at the next meeting.

Old Business:

a. Ash Trees and Emerald Ash Borer: There was a lengthy discussion about how to deal with the Ash borer disease including treatment methods and removal. Mary Ann Borge from the Woodcrest development and with Lambertville Goes Wild participated in the discussion. She indicated that the 22 acre development had some 400 ash trees and that she was looking for guidance on actions to take.

Emily brought up various actions mentioned by Hunterdon County naturalist Tom Sheppard at a special meeting on May 30th including the solicitation of proposals for treating trees city-wide. The price would be according to tree size (per inch dbh). The following additional actions were suggested:

- 1) Place a notice about the Emerald Ash Borer disease on the first page of the City website with a link to more detailed information already on the website.
- 2) Provide brochures on the disease at places in town accessible to the public.
- 3) Plant seedlings in forested areas to replace dead ash trees.
- 4) Hire a consultant to determine whether individual trees were diseased.

To further discuss strategies for addressing the Emerald Ash Borer disease, the Commission agreed to have Emily form an a committee with representatives of the Shade Tree Commission, the Environmental Commission, and Lambertville Goes Wild. Helen and Emily agreed to serve on the committee.

It was mentioned that an Asian predatory insect was being introduced on a trial basis at certain county and state forested sites, including Goat Hill. It was noted that the City's Community Forestry Plan addressed the Emerald Ash Borer disease (on page 33).

Emily mentioned that the City was still considering whether to treat ash trees in Cavello Park. A price quote for one ground treatment of the 9 trees was \$450. (Additional treatments every 2 years would be needed.)

b. Bacterial Leaf Scorch: The continued threat to the large Pin Oaks in the downtown was briefly mentioned. No further treatment is planned.

c. Ordinance Revision: Art reported that he and Tom were working on a new draft ordinance. Art asked that Commission members email any suggestions for the new ordinance. Emily thought that members would benefit from seeing the current draft and that she would send it to them.

d. Tree Inventory: Emily indicated that the City was now eligible to apply for a State Stewardship grant which would be used to develop a city-wide tree inventory. Tom also mentioned that possibility of using the grant to plant more street trees. Emily mentioned that the City's grant consultant could prepare an application before next year's deadline.

e. Dead Ash Tree at Public Library: Tom asked about that status of this large ash tree which was brought up at the April meeting. Emily said that she would send a letter to the City requesting removal.

f. Clinton Street Project - Phase 2: Including tree planting as part of phase 2 was again discussed. Tom mentioned that trees could be planted in 6 "empty" tree pits. Plans are still being worked on by T&M Associates.

g. Tree Planting at Cafe Galleria: Emily mentioned that she would remind the restaurant owner to plant a replacement tree (for the large Pin Oak removed earlier this year).

Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm.

Tom Ogren
Secretary