

City of Lambertville

SHADE TREE COMMISSION

Minutes of February 26, 2018 Meeting

Attending the meeting were members Deborah Galen, Susan Wydick and Tom Ogren.

Chairperson Emily Goldman and Vice chairperson Art Legere were absent. Those attending convened the meeting at 7:40 pm. The meeting was held in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act. No members of the public were present.

Approval of Minutes: Deborah Galen made a motion, seconded by Susan Wydick, to approve the minutes of the January 22, 2018 meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

Electing a New Chairperson: Based on an email from Emily Goldman, it was mentioned that she wished to step down as chairperson given her frequent absences due to having to attend work related meetings on the same night. Without anyone being nominated as a new chairperson, the committee postponed the matter to the next meeting.

New Business:

a. Shad festival: Based on information provided by Emily Goldman, it was mentioned that the Environmental Commission would have a booth and distribute information on the Emerald Ash Borer. Tom Ogren suggested that the chair of the Commission should be contacted to confirm the availability of the information.

b. CORE training: In response to an email from Emily Goldman, Tom Ogren indicated his willingness to attend the May 5th training sessions if no one else wanted to attend.

Old Business:

a. JCP&L Maintenance Trimming: Deborah Galen indicated that she and Emily Goldman met with representatives of JCP&L regarding upcoming street tree trimming. Deborah Galen pointed out during a walking tour of the town that trimming of limbs near wires was especially needed for a large oak tree in front of the Kalmia Club house on York Street.

b. Community Forestry Management Plan: Based on an email from Emily Goldman, it was mentioned that the City submitted the plan to the NJ DEP on February 20.

c. Bacterial Leaf Scorch: There was a brief discussion of this disease affecting Pin Oaks.

It was mentioned that there had been some treatment of Pin Oaks downtown a long time ago. It was agreed that no further treatment appeared to be needed at this time.

d. Ash Trees and Emerald Ash Borer (EAB): Informing the public about the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) was again discussed. Susan Wydick referred to the section in the Community Forestry Management Plan on this subject. Deborah Galen suggested that Tom Ogren contact the City Clerk about putting information about EAB, as previously distributed to members, on the City website and the Lambertville Facebook site. She added that the information could also be included with City tax bills.

e. Shade Tree Ordinance Revision: Some background on the draft ordinance revision done years ago was discussed. Tom Ogren mentioned that he had emailed to members after the last meeting the draft ordinance done years ago and a revised version of the ordinance which he prepared. He indicated that his draft re-arranged provisions of the earlier draft for clarity and added sections about giving the Shade Tree Commission a role in reviewing plans of the City and private developers affecting street trees. He also pointed out that his draft include a provision requiring property owners to remove dead street trees consistent with past policy. It was agreed that the Commission needed to finalize a draft soon for consideration by the mayor and council. Further discussion will take place at the next meeting after giving members another month to review the draft ordinances.

f. Clinton Street Project: Tom Ogren mentioned that he had reviewed the City's plans for the Clinton Street paving project. He said that the plans, which covered the section from York Street to Delaware Street, included sidewalk replacement on most of the west side but not on the east side. Existing street trees, mainly crabapple, were shown to remain and no new trees were to be planted. Given the proximity of sidewalks to the curb (about 15") on both sides of the street, it was felt that the planting of new trees was impractical. Tom Ogren was asked to check on the status of plans for a second phase of the project north of Delaware St.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn the meeting was unanimously approved at 8:25 pm.

Tom Ogren,
Secretary