

Whitehouse Tree Commission
Minutes of Meeting – February 23, 2017

The meeting was called to order by Sheri Luedtke at 7:05 PM. Members Present: Chairperson, Sheri Luedtke, Amy Schultz, Michelle Tippie, Janet Traub, Staff Representative, Mark Thomas. Guest: Jerry Finfera, Cemetery Road resident.

The minutes of the January 26, 2017 - Motion by Amy Schultz to accept the minutes as correct, and second by Michelle Tippie. Motion carried.

Tree Inventory - Mark Thomas reported that the trees in Whitehouse Meadows are being trimmed. Autumn Brilliance service berries and yews are slated to be planted along the east side of the village hall on Friday.

Forms and Documents - Mark Thomas presented a street tree sheet for Whitehouse Valley Plat Four. For the Master Plan field trip for site analysis and future file copy, the village office will have a smaller copy available to commission members.

Old Business:

Mark Thomas relayed that Service Director Steve Pilcher requests the Tree Commission to lay out what items need to be on developers' tree plan sheets to satisfy the commission's procedure for assigning appropriate tree types in the planning stages. For subdivisions, the commission preferred that the locations of street trees be shown on the plan, but that no designation as to type of tree be made. The private trees to be set on the lots are a different matter, and not under the selection control of the Tree Master Plan. [Site Plans for commercial plans were not discussed.]

Whitehouse Policies on Construction Near Trees - Sheri Luedtke, Chris Manzey, Elliot Tramer, and Janet Traub met in February at Sheri's house to produce a draft of policies needed to protect existing trees during unrelated construction. The commission members looked at the items considered so far. Urban forester, Stephanie Miller, has requested the opportunity to meet with the commission before we get much farther. Sheri will try to have Stephanie come to Whitehouse at 7:00 to 7:30 PM before our March 23rd meeting to discuss what direction we should go. If the scheduling doesn't work out for Stephanie, we will try for a daytime meeting that coincides with the highest availability of all commission members.

Spring Seminar - Janet Traub is set to give a presentation on lichens and whether they are harmful to trees on April 8, 2017 at the municipal building. Janet sent Barb Knisely a short notice of the event which will be published in the village's spring newsletter.

Problem Tree Report - Mr. Burmeister, who made a report of a street tree that was damaging his sewer connection, with complications of lower-level flooding, and was also causing the sidewalk to heave, lives on Field St. Sheri Luedtke visited the site and showed the commission photos of the tree and sidewalk. The tree is a mature oak tree. Mark Thomas said that Steve

Pilcher is prepared to have the village reinstall sidewalk that skirts around the spots raised by the roots and will let Mr. Burmeister know.

Silva Cell Information - To be sure designers and engineers consider Silva Cells and other tree health systems for heavily paved and hardscaped stretches, we will try to have Stephanie Miller and an experienced contractor in Silva Cells at a meeting with our Service Director and Village Manager. Michelle Tippie will contact a contractor she knows and Sheri Luedtke will contact Stephanie.

New Business:

Master Plan Extension - Whitehouse Valley Plat Four Trees - On March 3, 2017 at 10 AM Janet Traub and Sheri Luedtke will meet to visit the new streets in place for Plat Four. New street trees will be designated for the parts of Sidney and Saron Streets in the new plat.

Arbor Day 2017 - May 5 will be the grade school Arbor Day celebration and tree planting. May 8, a Monday will be the rain date. Mark Thomas will order the saplings. Usually there are 200 saplings. Any extra will be given away on the Village Market Saturdays. Sheri will contact the grade school and proceed with preparing video collection and "Tree Diaries" the students will receive along with the saplings. Judy Kethel will be in charge of arranging publicity.

Trees for Arbor Day will be planted along the bike trail. The varieties will be selected at the March tree commission meeting. Members recalled some trees along the trail already and will visit the site to list all the sample trees in place. The known types were zelkova, seven sons flower tree, Ohio buckeye, golden rain tree, tulip tree, little leaf linden, Red Sunset maple, river birch, black gum, horse chestnut, and freeman maple (Harry Behrendt's tree).

Mindy Curry will need to have Mayor Atkinson read the 2017 Arbor Day Proclamation before Village Council at the meeting before May 5 and also try to get the mayor come to the May 5 ceremony which will start around 2:15 or 2:30.

Annexation Land on West Side of Cemetery Road - Guest Jerry Finfera said he wants to follow closely the development, especially regarding trees, within the new subdivisions planned. Immediately across from his house a detention basin is planned, and he is hoping there will be trees in that detention area to prevent it from looking too stark. The commission encouraged him to attend as many planning meetings as possible and put forward his views for the most attractive solution possible.

Amy Schultz moved adjournment, and Janet Traub seconded, and at 8:00 pm. the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Traub