

## **Municipality of Whitehouse**

### **Tree Commission Meeting**

**07-27-17**

Attendees: Sheri Luedtke (Chair), Janet Traub, Amy Schultz, Judy Kethel, Christine Manzey, Elliot Tramer, Village Staff Advisor Mark Thomas, Michelle Tippie, and Council Rep. Rebecca Conklin-Kleiboemer with guest attendee Ethan Kersted

The meeting was called to order at 19:09.

The Minutes of the June 22, 2017 meeting were unanimously approved, as amended, following a grammar correction to the last sentence of the 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph. (Moved Amy Schultz, Second Janet Traub)

#### **Old Business:**

Following 4 months of work drafting the Public Tree Protection During Construction Policy the Sub-committee met for the final time on July 5<sup>th</sup> at the home of Elliot Tramer. The following documents were presented to the Commission for review and approval:

Revision of Tree Ordinance, Municipality of Whitehouse Public Tree Protection During Construction Policy, and Municipality of Whitehouse Minimizing Construction Damage to Public Trees Checklist.

Following a discussion which included punctuation and grammar corrections, and the addition of a definition of a Drip Line to Exhibit A of Tree Commission Ordinance 167.0, it was decided that Village Staff Advisor Mark Thomas would take the documents to the Public Works Director, Steve Pilcher, for review. The Commission wishes to be sure that these policies and processes can be implemented and enforced before presenting them to Council. Mr. Pilcher's recommendations will be presented at the August Tree Commission meeting.

After the Commission reviews the Public Works Department recommendations, Council Representative Rebecca Conklin-Kleiboemer will forward the document to Municipal Solicitor Phil Davis for final wordsmithing prior to presentation to Council.

If approved by Council the Public Tree Protection During Construction Policy will be added to the Tree Commission link on the Municipal website.

Sheri Luedtke responded to a Waterville Street residents request with regard to a tree planting. It was determined that the location the homeowner wanted to plant the River Birch was on

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private property and not in the tree lawn. The Commission has no control over what a resident plants in their personal tree lawn.

The Tree Commission has received permission from Council to plant a memorial tree in honor of Elliot Tramer's son David. Elliot will complete the paperwork required and the Commission will include his choice in the Municipalities fall planting schedule.

### **Tree Inventory:**

Tree Trimming work continues in the Village Meadows sub-division.

The new municipal trees are being watered weekly regardless of the weather forecasts.

### **New Business:**

Stephanie Miller of ODNR sent the requested information on hosting a TCA class. Sheri Luedtke reviewed the requirements and presented them to the Commission. The Commission feels that we can easily fulfill the obligations. A motion to host the January 2018 TCA class was made by Judy Kethel and seconded by both Elliot Tramer and Amy Schultz. The motion passed unanimously.

Judy Kethel will be unable to attend the 07-29-17 Farmers Market. Sheri Luedtke has volunteered to take her place.

Council Representative Rebecca Conklin-Kleiboemer placed a request from Council before the Committee. It is proposed that the two large Spruce trees flanking the statue in the Village Park be removed. The removal is for strictly aesthetic reasons, the Council and Administration want to open up the view into the park from Providence Street.

A discussion took place covering the health and age of the trees, the benefits of the trees (provides a buffer from Providence St. for the park visitors, each tree mitigates 3800 gallons of storm water, they are a Municipal asset that increases in value with age), and the fact that they are not on the Hazardous Trees list. At the end of the discussion a motion was made to not

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recommend the removal of the trees to Council. The motion was made by Amy Schultz and seconded by Michelle Tippie. The motion passed unanimously.

**Other Business:**

Elliot Tramer has volunteered to compose an article about the Asian Longhorn Beetle for The Mirror and The Blade in recognition of August being Asian Longhorn Beetle month.

Christine and Elliot attended the Conclave in Defiance on 07-26-17.

**Adjournment:**

With no other business to discuss, a motion was made by Judy Kethel and seconded by Elliot Tramer to adjourn at 20:28.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle K. Tippie