

Minutes – Whitehouse Tree Commission Meeting August 24, 2017

Present: Sheri Luedtke, Amy Schulz, Elliot Tramer, Janet Traub, Judy Kethel; Rebecca Conklin Kleiboemer (Council Representative), Mark Thomas (Staff Advisor), and guest Dianne Toffler.

Meeting called to order at 7:03 p.m.

Minutes of the July 27, 2017 meeting were unanimously approved, as amended, following a grammar correction to Council Representative Rebecca Conklin Kleiboemer name. (Moved Judy Kethel, Second Elliot Tramer)

OLD BUSINESS

2017 Tree City USA and Growth Award Applications: Sheri reports Tree City USA application is on schedule for completion prior to the due date. Sheri brought the booklet of tree stories prepared by the Whitehouse Primary classes of third graders. This project which was started last year and improved this year will become part of the Growth Award application this year. Elliot reports we have many active projects to submit for Growth Award application this year. Final approval from Council is required for to Tree Ordinance Revisions, Checklist for Minimizing Construction Damage, and a Policy for Public Tree Protection During Construction before the year end. Rebecca will handle the communications to both the Solicitor and Council at the next meeting September 5, 2018.

Discussed the Quarry Invasives Project. It was determined that we should set a date to continue work on this project. The committee tentatively set a date of September 16, 9:00 a.m. committee members and 10:00 for students. Janet will get with Todd Crail and coordinate arrangements with UT students. Mark will supply round up.

Discussion of Memorial Tree Choices: A White Oak Tree will be planted in honor of David Tramer along the bike trail. A Goldenchain Tree was chosen to celebrate Divine Reflection's 25 year anniversary. These trees will be included in the fall planting schedule. Tree identification bricks have been ordered for Arbor Day plantings.

Tree Commission Academy Planning for January 2018: Whitehouse will host the Freshman year of TCA on January 9 and January 10, 2018. Discussed the potential of 2 new members to the Whitehouse Tree Commission and the possibility of their attendance.

Construction Around Public Trees: After extensive reviews we think the *Public Tree Protection During Construction Policy* is ready to go to council. Janet's motion that this Policy is ready to take to council was seconded by Amy Schultz. Committee voted and approved the motion.

Farmer's Market Growth Award Project: Saturday mornings continue with reaching out to residents and providing information on the effects of the Asian Longhorned Beetle. We continue to meet many residents outside of the Whitehouse area who leave with information and a promise to pass on this information.

Tree Inventory: Mark reports 10112 Saddle Bridge N. has a Pear Tree down and needs a replacement. Also 2 Pear Trees need removed due to trellis rust on 11052 Villa Ct and 7023 Widdenmill and will be replaced.

Forms and Documents: Sheri contacted Amy Stone with a need for more information and hand outs for the Saturday morning Farmers Market. A second request went to Bonita Cordi, Ohio Dept. of Agriculture who sent Sheri lots of hand outs including posters on the Asian Longhorned Beetle.

Judy reviewed the Fall Newsletter article she prepared, *CARING FOR YOUR LANDSCAPE IS LIKE PUTTING MONEY IN THE BANK*. Judy emailed the article to Barb.

Elliot reviewed the Mirror Newspaper article he prepared, *Our newest pest: A whopper of a beetle*. Karen is presently formatting the article.

Discussion Regarding Role in Phase 2 of Downtown Renovation for 2018. The Tree Commission Council Representative will advise the need of a Tree Commission member or a small group consisting of Elliot Tramer, Amy Schultz and Sheri Luedtke be notified when Downtown Renovation meetings for 2018 are held.

NEW BUSINESS

Review Fall Planting Schedule: Our Fall Tree Planting schedule will include 12 trees which include the memorial trees and replacements from removal throughout the year. Judy will contact Carolyn Myerholtz, 11232 Waterville Street. Carolyn inquired when her street would be included in the Fall Street Tree Planting schedule. After discussion it was determined that presently our schedule does not reach out far enough to include her street.

Tree Commission Budget 2018: Rebecca advises she will handle the needs of the Budget which should be similar to past years. Want to make sure the Tree Commission Academy we are hosting in January is included. Sheri mentions most attendees pay their way. We have potentially 2 new members on our Commission that may need funding.

OTHER ISSUES

Birch Point experienced a 20' section of premature death of burning bushes and 2 trees of unknown cause.

Mark commented that Steve Pilcher requests if the Tree Commission could come up with a plan to plant small trees in front of the park. Mark will get a better description of the front of the park. Members agreed that it's a good idea to start a young tree planting schedule.

Mark questioned our preference to tree planting technique in the downtown area. Committee agreed that Silva Cells was the best and second best Cornell University structured soil system.

Elliot Tramer moved adjournment, Amy Schultz seconded, and motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Veronica Judy Kethel