

Whitehouse Tree Commission

April 25, 2019

Attendees: Sheri Luedtke, Chair; Amy Schultz, Vice Chair; Richard Bingham, Council Rep; Mark Thomas, Village Rep; Christine Manzey; Michelle Tippie; Elliot Tramer

The meeting was called to order at 19:05.

Before approving the minutes from March 2019, Sheri Luedtke indicated there were two changes. First, the date of the Arbor Day celebration with Whitehouse Elementary was changed to May 3rd. And, second, one of the trees to be planted at the Arbor Day celebration would be a Hackberry instead of the Little Leaf Linden. A motion to accept the revised March 2019 meeting minutes was made by Michelle Tippie and seconded by Amy Schultz. The motion was carried unanimously.

Old Business:

Mark Thomas reported that there were no new acquisitions or removals this month.

Dianne Toffler volunteered last month to organize the Forms and Documents cabinet and has been busy providing this necessary service. No new forms or documents were discussed.

Elliot Tramer reported on his meeting with representatives from the Whitehouse Library. The library board was concerned about young people gathering in the evening out of sight behind the building. Elliot recommended the removal of three spruce trees: one was dead, the second was experiencing needle drop, and the third was aesthetically unappealing. He further recommended the trimming away from the library wall of three inner arborvitae, and removal of a picnic table.

New Business:

Three Tree Commission members attended the Tree City USA 2019 Ceremony in Crestline, OH. They received the Growth Award for Whitehouse; brought back a poster titled "Life, Death, and Rebirth of a Tree" which Sheri Luedtke will laminate; and heard a presentation by a gentleman who portrayed John Chapman (a.k.a. Johnny Appleseed). Sheri asked whether the Tree Commission might want to sponsor a community event featuring this John Chapman impersonator. This event would count toward future Growth Award points. Sheri reported that she requested to be put on the Village Council meeting agenda on May 7th (7:00 pm) so she could explain the significance of the Growth Award.

Sheri Luedtke reported that she received a call from a local Girl Scout troupe who were working on a Tree badge. Sheri arranged to meet with them on April 30 at 6:00 pm to describe the mission of our Tree Commission; describe how to plant trees; and give each girl a sapling.

The first Flower/Farmer Market in Whitehouse will be on May 4th. Sheri Luedtke volunteered to man the Tree Commission table and pass out any extra saplings we might have that were left over from Arbor Day. Amy Schultz mentioned that the Village Council was considering occasionally having the Market day on Wednesday evenings.

Sheri Luedtke reiterated the flow of activities for the May 3rd Arbor Day celebration with Whitehouse Primary third graders. The event will take place at 2:00 pm with the Mayor reading a Proclamation. Three or possibly four trees will be planted. The holes will be dug by the Boy Scouts previous to the event. 300 bags donated by Kroger's will be decorated by the students and then returned to Kroger's for their use. Tree Commission members will meet at the Shelter house at noon to prepare the saplings that will be given to each student.

Michelle Tippie volunteered to write an article about the banning of planting Callery Pears on public rights of way for the Village Update newsletter. This newsletter is scheduled to be available primarily online.

The Village has changed its website which has resulted in the omission of a Tree Commission page. Michelle Tippie suggested that Sheri Luedtke contact Jill Gundy about improving public accessibility of Tree Commission documents such as the Tree Ordinance, planting instructions, etc.

Sheri Luedtke volunteered to draft a letter to Jeffrey Rodriguez, the homeowner at 10631 Saron, concerning the removal of the Callery Pears planted in the public tree lawn. She will share the draft with Commission members before sending.

Other Issues

Richard Bingham will not be present at the next Tree Commission meeting but will receive minutes for his Village Council report.

Mark Thomas reported that bids were being taken for the removal of a tree at 11140 West St.

Elliot Tramer directed the attention of the attendees to the east side of the Village Hall where the Serviceberries were in full bloom. These trees were planted last year along with yew bushes as a renovation of the plantings around the building.

A motion to adjourn at 19:48 was made by Amy Schultz and seconded by Elliot Tramer. The motion was carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Christine Manzey