

Whitehouse Tree Commission
Minutes of Meeting – January 26, 2017

The meeting was called to order by Sheri Luedtke at 7 PM. Members Present: Chairperson, Sheri Luedtke, Amy Schultz, Michelle Tippie, Janet Traub, Staff Representative, Mark Thomas, and Village Council Representative, Mindy Curry. Guests: Gary and Joy Turski, Whitehouse Valley residents.

The minutes of the November 17, 2016 meeting were accepted as correct. Motion by Michelle Tippie and seconded by Janet Traub to approve. Motion carried.

Meeting was closed for the selection of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson for 2017. Mindy Curry called for nominations for the two positions: Sheri Luedtke for Chairperson for the coming year, and Amy Schultz for Vice Chairperson. Both nominees were accepted unanimously.

The meeting was reopened.

Old Business:

Tree Inventory - Mark Thomas listed 16 trees the Village has planted in January: 6862 Wycliff and 11371 Wyndham, red oaks, - 6815, 6823, and 6816 Wycliff, and 11357 Waterville, dawn redwoods, - 6405 Lenderson, two tulip trees, - 6622 Merritt, red oak, - 11004 Southanne, Freeman Maple, - Park on Waterville St, redbud, - 6234 Steeplechase, Kentucky coffeetree, - 11091 Villacourt, London Planetree, - 6965 Whiddenmill, dawn redwood, - 6704 Swanton, silver linden, and - 7269 Laurel Ridge, littleleaf linden. Soon, Autumn Brilliance serviceberries and yews will be planted along the east side of the village hall.

Forms and Documents - A sequence of emails initiated by villager Mr. Burmeister with replies by Steve Pilcher, Service Director, was filed in the cabinet. [More discussion of this topic is in “New Business” of these minutes.]

Tree Commission cooperative events with Metroparks - Mindy Curry sent members the Metroparks activities planned for Blue Creek Metropark which is the quarry area and surroundings. We can inform them of our activities and possibly be included in some of their publicity emails (like “This Week at Metroparks”). We will let them know about our upcoming spring public seminars.

Whitehouse Policies on Construction Near Trees - Sheri Luedtke provided members with a previous draft copy of policies considered by the neighboring municipality of Waterville. A subcommittee meeting was set up to consider policies that would assure appropriate protection is provided for existing trees during construction in the Whitehouse rights-of-way, and other Whitehouse property. The meeting will be at Sheri Luedtke’s house on February 9 at 1PM. At a minimum, Janet Traub and Sheri will be there to develop proposals for the whole commission to consider.

Also, Sheri reported that Jordan Daugherty, Village administrator, and Steve Pilcher will let the Tree Commission know when any meetings take place where the Commission can present material on Silva Cells and other construction technology that improves the survival, health, and longevity of public trees.

Veterans Memorial Park - A preliminary drawing from the Edge Group of the park plan with the proposed trees was reviewed. The tree selection was made based on the theme “red, white and blue.” Members agreed that large trees were proposed at spacing too close for tree vigor. The

selected trees were Armstrong red maple, red oak and boxwood. Members were interested to note that the boxwoods were planned well back from any salty street-splash.

Finzel Farms Tree Planting - Sheri Luedtke mentioned that several trees had been planted and that the staking was an unusual style.

New Business:

Problem Tree Report - As mentioned in "Forms and Documents," a Mr. Burmeister 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. Commission members could not find the site address in the emails and wanted to inspect the conditions in the field. Mr. Pilcher's reply included copies of findings that only a sewer which is already compromised can be aggravated by growing tree roots. A time for members to visit the site will be set no later than the February commission meeting.

Annual Tree Ordinance Review - Members agreed that changes to the ordinance do not seem necessary at this point.

Spring Seminar - Janet Traub will give a presentation on lichens and whether they are harmful to trees. The presentation will be April 8 at the municipal building.

Spring Newsletter - Janet Traub will prepare a short article announcing the lichen presentation.

Whitehouse Valley Plat Four Trees - Gary and Joy Turski expressed concern that Callery pear trees might be planned for the new plat of Whitehouse Valley that is due for building. The commission had a copy of the plan approved in 2014, and there were no pears on it. One of the approved plan trees is a crabapple. Since the time of that plan approval, the Master Tree Plan for Whitehouse has taken effect. New developments will be subject to having the tree selection decided by the Tree Commission in order to ensure species diversity and largest tree possible for site. In the built-up Whitehouse Valley streets, the street trees are pears and some are already failing.

Update Master Tree Plan for Saron St. and Sydney - For a new plat in Whitehouse Valley the Commission needs to update our Master Plan with tree selection for the additional segments to be added on Sydney and Saron. An agenda item for the February commission meeting will be to set a date for a site visit and tree selection.

Whitehouse Policy for funding trees in New Developments - Mark Thomas said \$450 for each tree on plan is required to be placed in escrow by the developer on all new subdivisions and developments from now on. This is to prevent the developer's failing to plant trees with no recourse left to the village to enforce the requirement.

Other items - Sheri Luedtke discussed having videos available for this year's Arbor Day event. Mark Thomas reported that harsh environment in the Finzel/Rte. 64 traffic circle, along with a long, hot, dry spell in summer 2016 caused many trees in the plantings there to die.

Amy Schultz moved adjournment, and Michelle Tippie seconded at 8:20 pm. Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Traub