

Whitehouse Tree Commission

Minutes of Meeting – May 23, 2019

Commissioners Present: Chairperson, Sheri Luedtke, Amy Schultz, Elliot Tramer, Chris Manzey, Diane Toffler and Mark Thomas, Village Staff Advisor. Guest, Stephanie Miller, State of Ohio, ODNR, Regional Coordinator.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson, Sheri Luedtke, at 7:10 pm. The minutes of the April 25, 2019 meeting were approved after a correction to the spelling of Michelle Tippie's name and a motion was made by Elliot Tramer and seconded by Diane Toffler. Motion carried.

Old Business:

Flower Market: Members have participated in 3 weekly markets during which they were able to pass out White Fir tree saplings along with information on trees and answer questions from the public. We will have more information for the Farmers Markets which will begin in July and run through October. We will need help in manning a table during those months.

Arbor Day, Grocery Bag Project: Sheri Luedtke collected the bags from Heidi Love, art teacher at Whitehouse Elementary. The children drew pictures on the brown paper bags with the emphasis on trees and insects that are harmful to trees. The bags will be returned to Kroger in Waterville and used to bag groceries for their customers.

Arbor Day: A few comments by Sheri Luedtke regarding the day. We first had to cancel the original planting day due to rain. The students that had planned to attend were given the prepared saplings of a White Fir to plant. Planting of the three trees near Stiles Road took place on May 20th with the help of Bittersweet Farms residents. The Mayor did a very nice job with the proclamation and a big thank you the Boy Scouts who dug the holes and to Mark Thomas for all of his hard work in making this happen. Trees planted were a Tulip Tree, a Black Gum and a Hackberry.

Forms & Documents: Diane Toffler has spent quite a few hours organizing the tree commission cabinet to make access to our information easier to find.

Tree Commission Minutes – Continued

May 23, 2019

Tree Inventory: Jeffery Rodriguez of 10631 Saron was sent a letter regarding the callery pears that were planted in the tree lawn. Mark Thomas will follow up to make sure they were removed. A Park tree was damaged due to a storm and will be removed. There was some discussion regarding the large spruce trees in the park and it was discussed again that the benefits of those trees outweigh other considerations.

EAB & ALB Awareness: This is the time of year for EAB (Emerald Ash Borer) and ALB (Asian Long horned Beetle) awareness program. Information was made available at the 3 flower marts in early May and will be made available at the Farmers Markets in July – October.

Boy Scout, Noah Werning: The tree commission was presented with a letter from Noah asking if there would be a project that he could assist with for an Eagle Scout Project. He will be invited to the June tree commission meeting to discuss a project.

Other Items: Stephanie Miller is interviewing municipalities regarding their commissions, as Northwest Ohio is celebrating their 40th Anniversary of Tree City USA. Items to be discussed will be budgets, the extent of canopy cover and what makes a good program. Her interview of various questions regarding the Whitehouse Tree Commission lasted about half an hour and covered many subjects. Some topics that the commission may need to work on were a tree risk assessment plan, developing a mission statement and a management plan.

Elliot Tramer presented an article regarding greenspace and canopy cover. It was noted during research that the elderly have a lower mortality rate while living in areas that have increased greenspace and canopy cover.

Meeting was adjourned with a motion by Chris Manzey and seconded by Elliot Tramer, adjourned at 8:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Schultz