

Whitehouse Tree Commission

Minutes of meeting of July 25, 2019

Attendance: Commissioners Sheri Luedtke (Chair), Chris Manzey, Amy Schultz, Michelle Tippie, Dianne Toffler, and Elliot Tramer. Council representative Richard Bingham, Staff representative Mark Thomas; guest John Werning, father of Noah Werning.

Meeting was called to order by Sheri Luedtke at 7:02 p.m.

Minutes of the June 27, 2019 meeting were approved (moved Amy Schultz, second MichelleTippie).

Old Business:

- (1) Farmers' markets are now on Wednesdays from 4:00-7:30 p.m. Music, food trucks, and other fun diversions are provided. Sheri Luedtke and Amy Schultz have staffed our table and provided informational literature.
- (2) Tree Inventory: Mark Thomas reported the following tree removals: An elm from 11140 West Street, and Callery Pears from 7327 Juneberry (2) and the following addresses on Laurel Ridge: 7279 (1), 7250 (1), 7309 (1) and 7319 (1). A Dawn Redwood was planted at an address on Texas Street. A homeowner on Juliana objected to the planting of a Honeylocust on her treelawn and was invited to attend the meeting, but did not do so. Amy Schultz called attention to a dead tree on Toledo Street. Mark reported that bricks for the Arbor Day trees have arrived.
- (3) Forms and Documents: The Tree Commission received a donated copy of the National Audubon Society Field Guide to Trees.

New Business:

- (1) Tree City USA certification and 2019 Growth Award: Two of the requirements for Tree City recertification are completed, an Arbor Day observance and educating the public about pests that threaten our trees. Growth Award possibilities include the project with girl scouts (Amy Schultz will send photos to Elliot Tramer), the bee program by Roger and Judy Myers in March, the cemetery tree mapping survey, installation of silva cells downtown, and progress on a strategic plan.
- (2) Plans for the Veterans Memorial Park plantings were reviewed. Our national colors, red, white and blue, will provide the color scheme. The tree commission will suggest that there is inadequate space for three large trees at the front corners of the park, and that two trees be planted at each corner instead. The tree designated for those sites, Armstrong Red Maple, is not available. We will suggest three alternatives, all providing red fall color: Autumn blaze maple, Freeman maple, or Tupelo.
- (3) Sheri Luedtke will ask Jennifer at Village Hall for a copy of the latest streetscape landscape plan.
- (4) John Werning, father of Noah Werning, discussed Noah's Eagle Scout service project. Noah plans to install signage at the Arbor Day and Memorial Trees planted along the bike trail. Signs will have a QR code linked to the Whitehouse web site, where citizens can learn interesting facts about each tree. Sheri Luedtke will be Noah's primary contact, with Elliot Tramer as secondary. Noah will accompany Elliot on a walk along the trail, to locate and identify the trees and gauge the scope of the project. Mr. Werning will provide a cost estimate to Councilman Bingham.
- (5) Elliot will contact Todd Crail at the University of Toledo to get some possible dates for involving students in the invasive plant removal project at the quarry.

- (6) Sheri Luedtke will contact Stephanie Miller to set a date for her to help us survey trees at the cemeteries.
- (7) Michelle Tippie mentioned the discovery of the Sudden Oak Death fungus (*Phytophthora ramorum*, "SOD") in Ohio. It has been imported on rhododendrons and lilacs sold this spring by Walmart. Plants possibly infected with SOD should be double bagged and sent to a landfill, or burned. So far there is no record of SOD infesting Ohio oaks.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m. (moved Dianne Toffler, second Amy Schultz)

Respectfully submitted,

Elliot Tramer