

Whitehouse Tree Commission (TC) Minutes  
Meeting of July 23, 2020

Attendance: Sheri Luedtke (chair), Christine Manzey, Amy Schultz, Michelle Tippie, Dianne Toffler, Elliot Tramer, Richard Bingham (council rep), Mark Thomas (public services rep)

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m.

The minutes of the June 25, 2020 meeting were approved (moved Amy Schultz, second Michelle Tippie)

Old Business:

- A. Tree Inventory – Mark Thomas reported that trees were removed as follows: Baldcypress at 6430 Sydney, Sassafras at 6426 Whitehouse Valley, Tulip Tree at 6939 Westwyck, a dead tree from the right-of-way at 10816 Toledo St., and a Callery Pear at 10962 Southanne Lane. Suckers were trimmed from trees along the quarry walking trail and at 10835 Waterville St. Sheri Luedtke asked whether trees along the bike path needed trimming; Elliot Tramer and Chris Manzey reported that they had trimmed dead wood from the two trees most in need there, the 7 Sons tree and a memorial Tuliptree.
- B. Forms and Documents: Sheri Luedtke is receiving Arbor Day bulletins that will be placed in the Tree Commission cabinet in the Village Hall. TC would like a thumb drive containing Noah Werning’s tree project for the cabinet; Sheri will ask if Noah can make one for us.

New Business:

- A. There was considerable discussion about the condition of the tree and shrub plantings at the new Whitehouse elementary school. A letter by Elliot Tramer and Christine Manzey emailed to Jordan Daugherty and Mayor Atkinson on July 4 detailed deep mulching, constricting ropes, apparent lack of water, and other issues. The letter was forwarded to the Anthony Wayne School Board, but TC decided that no action is possible until we have more details about the contract agreement between the school board and the contractor. Michelle Tippie will inquire about the contents of that agreement and report back.
- B. Tree City USA and Growth Award applications for 2021: Sheri Luedtke reported that we are in good shape with 3 of the 4 criteria for Tree City designation. But because of the Covid-19 pandemic we were unable to hold a public Arbor Day celebration this spring. The mayor did provide an Arbor Day proclamation. It was decided to hold a tree dedication at three trees planted last spring, perhaps in September. Sheri will order bricks to place beneath the trees. Mark Thomas showed reflective stickers for our Tree City USA highway signs indicating 13 straight years of achieving that status. We have two projects that should qualify for growth award points, Noah Werning’s tree project and our risk assessments of trees at four Whitehouse cemeteries. Elliot Tramer will contact Stephanie Miller to determine whether we will have sufficient points for a

growth award, given that the pandemic may result in an adjustment of the award requirements.

- C. Elliot Tramer and Chris Manzey participated in Stephanie Miller's *Zoom* meeting on July 16, and were given time to describe Noah Werning's project in detail. They were pleased to note that Stephanie took the opportunity to compliment the Whitehouse TC on our work.
- D. Quarry invasives: This spring the shrub vegetation on the quarry slope behind the Village Hall was cut down by the Metroparks in preparation for construction of a paved biking/walking trail. Sprouts are beginning to grow back and many invasive plants will reappear, but the low ground cover is dominated by poison ivy, so work on plants there is not advisable at this time. One of the invasive non-native trees along the quarry is Tree-of-Heaven (*Ailanthus*). Elliot Tramer has volunteered to participate in a watch of *Ailanthus* trees, which is a favorite host of the Spotted Lanternfly, a new pest from Asia that is invading the U.S. So far none have been reported in Ohio, but it has been recorded along the Ohio border in Pennsylvania. The lanternfly can damage or kill a wide variety of trees; Chris Manzey mentioned it also feeds on grapevines, so it is a big concern for the grape/wine industry.
- E. Elliot Tramer responded to an inquiry by a lady about pruning her oak tree. Richard Bingham mentioned that she lives near Delta. It was stated that TC is pleased to provide assistance to anyone who asks!

The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 p.m. (moved Amy Schultz, second Dianne Toffler)

Respectfully submitted,

Elliot Tramer