

Whitehouse Tree Commission Minutes
Meeting of August 27, 2020

Attendance: Sheri Luedtke (chair), Christine Manzey, Amy Schultz, Elliot Tramer, Richard Bingham (Council rep), Mark Thomas (Public Services rep)

The meeting was called to order at 6:58 p.m.

The minutes of the July 23, 2020 meeting were approved (moved by Elliot Tramer, second Amy Schultz).

Old Business

- A. Update on Trees at the Primary School --** Sheri Luedtke talked with Tiffany Bachman who relayed information from the school Superintendent that actions could not be taken until the school system signed off on the landscaping that has been done in order to not invalidate guarantees. Sheri has noticed workers pulling mulch away from plantings.
- B. Discuss Dedication of the Eagle Scout Project --** Because we cannot do anything to draw a gathering during the Covid-19 Pandemic, Sheri Luedtke suggested that we should plan a *virtual* dedication via FaceBook “live”. It was agreed that Saturday, September 19th at 1:00 p.m. would be a good time. Sheri Luedtke will contact April Cline with the Village office to make further arrangements using the Village FaceBook account.
- C. Quarry Invasives** –no discussion ensued because the Metroparks of Toledo are now taking a lead in the maintenance of the plantings surrounding the quarry.
- D. Tree Inventory** – Mark Thomas reported that fall plantings were being initiated and that removals currently involved junk species near Veterans Park where a fence was being installed.
- E. Engraved Bricks** – Sheri Luedtke reported that three engraved bricks were ready to be picked up and placed by the trees planted earlier this spring in recognition of Arbor Day. This would be a photo opportunity the Tree Commission could use toward our Tree City Renewal Application.
- F. Forms and Docs** – Sheri Luedtke had a series of documents to add to our cabinet.
- G. Memorial Tree pricing** – Richard Bingham reported that a proposal by the Tree Commission to keep the cost of planting a Memorial Tree at \$350 was not going to be considered by Council. The rationale was that the price should not undercut the current \$450 cost being charged by the Village to plant trees.
- H. Birch Pointe White Birch tree problems** – Sheri Luedtke reported that she had consulted with an arborist about the decline of a number of White Birches in the Birch Pointe neighborhood. He advocated expensive treatments for an iron deficiency. Sheri then consulted with Steph Miller, NW Ohio Regional Forester, who suggested that the problem might be a soil issue rather than a nutrient deficiency. Sheri is waiting for the results of soils tests and then further discussion can take place. Currently the trees are sprayed and injected to repel the Birch Borer.

New Business

- A. Preparation for Tree City and Growth Award** – Elliot Tramer reported that three projects were needed in order for the Tree Commission to garner the 10 points necessary for a Growth Award. (1) Noah Werner’s Eagle Scout Project involving tree identification and information labels was well-received by Steph Miller and worth 4 points. (2) The Cemetery Project which involved

identifying and assessing the health of all trees in the large cemetery on Cemetery Road was initiated last fall. A verbal report was given by Sheri Luedtke to the Cemetery Board and they requested that the Tree Commissioners assess three other smaller cemeteries in our Village. Elliot Tramer volunteered to take the findings from these assays and generate a final report. This is worth four points. (3) Elliot Tramer suggested a public education project where tree tags would be created describing the dollar Value different kinds of trees provide to our community. Using an app called I-Tree, estimates can be made for such parameters as carbon storage, wastewater runoff remediation, cooling effects, etc. These tags would be attached to specific types of trees and be made of a durable coroplast material. Fifty tags would cost approximately \$250. Richard Bingham encouraged Elliot to submit a proposal to Council to cover this cost. This project would be worth 3 points.

- B. John Werner** – attended a portion of the meeting in order to give back extra posts from his son Noah’s Eagle Scout Project and deliver packets from the Boy Scouts to those writing letters for Noah. Sheri Luedtke requested that Noah place all his information used in his project onto a flashdrive so the Tree Commission would have a copy.
- C. Prepare Tree Budget** – the Tree Budget has been traditionally prepared by the council rep, so Sheri Luedtke will find out from Steph Miller exactly the amount of increase necessary in order for our Village to qualify for Tree City status. She will provide this to Richard Bingham.
- D. Ohio Urban Forestry Conference 2020** – Sheri Luedtke encouraged all of the Tree Commissioners to sign up for this virtual event. Hours can be counted toward our Tree City certification.
- E. Review Fall Tree Planting** – Mark Thomas reported that the schedule was currently being put together based on the needs of the Village where priorities were replacing removed trees and planting in new neighborhoods. Amy Schultz and Sheri Luedtke volunteered to update the Master Plan by visiting new neighborhoods.
- F. Whitehouse Village Flowers** – members of the Tree Commission commented on the beauty of this year’s village flower plantings. Also, mentioned was the attractiveness of the traffic circle at Finzel Rd and Rte 64 and wildflower field.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:56 p.m. (moved by Amy Schultz, second Elliot Tramer)

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Manzey