

**Whitehouse Tree Commission
Virtual Meeting
January 28, 2021**

Attendees: Sheri Luedtke, Pres., Amy Schultz, Vice Pres., Christine Manzey, Elliot Tramer, Diane Toffler, Michelle Tippie, Mark Thomas, Village Rep., Richard Bingham, Council Rep., and Jill Gundy, Host.

The meeting was called to order at 19:00.

There were no additions or corrections to the October 22, 2020 meeting minutes. A motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Elliot Tramer and seconded by Christine Manzey. The motion passed unanimously.

Richard Bingham held the election of the Commission Officers. Sheri Luedtke was put forward to continue as President. A motion was made by Christine Manzey and a second was made by Amy Schultz. Sheri's re-election was approved unanimously.

Amy Schultz was put forward to continue as Vice President. A motion was made by Richard Bingham and seconded by Sheri Luedtke. Amy's re-election was approved unanimously.

At 19:03 the meeting resumed with the newly re-elected officers.

Old Business:

Tree Inventory: Dan Wyandt delivered all the data he and his class accumulated during their recording of the Village tree inventory. Amy Schultz is working on transcribing this information into a spreadsheet format. Sheri would like to begin a re-inventory of the Village a section at a time to be sure the information is up to date. She suggested looking into whether the tree inventory and the Master Plan could be combined and if this would be a beneficial document.

Mark Thomas reported that the following areas of the Village have been trimmed: Steeple Chase, Wesley Farms, and Finzel Farms. They are currently working on Saddle Bridge. Amy Schultz reminded us that it is not a good idea to trim trees less than 2" in diameter and less than 3 years old. Mark will pass this on to his crew.

The removal of the large Silver Maple at the Log Cabin, approved for removal at the 10-22-2020 meeting, is gone. The cost for the project came in lower because the Village Public Works Dept. did the clean-up.

Sheri expressed her appreciation for the speed with which this occurred.

Forms and Docs.: Sheri has additional Arbor Day Foundation articles to add to the cabinet. She has been using some of these to post to the Facebook page.

New Business:

Prepare meeting/event plan for 2021: The calendar was reviewed by the full Commission. Additions, corrections, and deletions were made. Amy Schultz will compile the new calendar and present it at the next meeting.

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Newsletter articles are no longer needed as this platform may no longer be available. The Village is currently releasing Updates electronically about every other month. Jill Gundy stated that if the Commission has a message they would like to get out the Updates may be available to us.

Plan for a Virtual Arbor Day in 2021. Trees can be ordered in April for a May planting. The planting location may be in the park near the baseball diamond again.

Plan to re-inventory a section of the Village during each month of the summer.

All current Commission members have been confirmed for 2021-2022. Richard Bingham will remain the Council Rep., and Mark Thomas will remain the Village Rep.

Sheri Leudtke will work with Nancy Meyerholtz to determine when Ms. Meyerholtz can perform her presentation of Rachel Carson's discourse on nature preservation based on her book Silent Spring. Perhaps a live Facebook event that can be recorded for future viewing.

The Village of Whitehouse Tree Commission received both a Tree City USA and Growth Award for 2020.

Sheri Leudtke presented the inventory of the area cemeteries to the Cemetery Board. The information was documented and presented so well that the Board had no additional questions.

The 2 trees on Finzel and Dutch were reviewed by the Commission and Mark Thomas answer questions about their condition. They are growing into the power lines and have been improperly trimmed in their past. A motion to recommend their removal was made by Christine Manzey and seconded by Elliot Tramer. The recommendation was unanimously approved. Mark Thomas will inform Steve Pilcher of Public Works.

Other issues:

Christine Manzey and Elliot Tramer have continued their work on the placards presenting the value and benefit of trees. Christine stated that at next month's meeting they should have the design choice and list of trees available for review. Richard Bingham verified that the cost of the project had been approved by Village Council.

A Facebook tutorial could be developed that would instruct home owners how to value their personal trees.

Elliot Tramer has been volunteered and accepted making a presentation of Earth Day, Then and Now. This presentation would be placed on the Tree Commission Facebook page.

A motion to adjourn was made by Diane Toffler, seconded by Elliot Tramer and unanimously approved at 19:45.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle K. Tippie