

Whitehouse Tree Commission

January 26, 2023

Attendees: Sheri Luedtke Pres., Amy Schultz Vice Pres., Dianne Toffler, Diane DeYonker, Chris Manzey, Elliot Tramer, Richard Bingham Council Rep., Mark Thomas Staff Rep., Brian Petrell Staff Rep., Michelle Tippie

The meeting was called to order at 19:31

Motions to accept the following minutes as submitted were passed unanimously:

October 27th 2022: Motion by Amy Schultz, seconded by Dianne Toffler

November 17th 2022: Motion by Elliot Tramer, seconded by Chis Manzey

Corrections to the Tree Commission Roster were made and will be submitted to Jill.

The meeting was turned over to Council Rep. Richard Bingham at 19:35 for the purpose of electing the 2023 Tree Commission Officers.

The following unanimous elections were made: Sheri Luedtke President and Amy Schultz Vice President.

The meeting was returned to Pres. Sheri Luedtke.

Old Business:

Canopy Grant: Elliot T. and Brian P. met with Stephanie Miller from ODNR on Thursday 01-19-23. Stephanie had concerns with the Commissions choice of trees for the Sandra Park canopy planting due to the swampy, clay conditions. She suggested some of the following varieties: Oak: Swamp, Bur, and Chinkapin, American Elm, Hickory, and Sycamore. These would take the place of the Black Gum and Red Maple which don't tolerate clay well.

Steve Pilcher has requested a list of 50 trees total from the Commission. The Commission will compile this list during the February meeting. Members should bring suggestions to the table. Commission reference books will be available at the meeting.

We will contact Woody Warehouse in Indiana to request a copy of their inventory. Their stock is not grafted and arrives in 5 gallon bags instead of pots, cages, or burlap. This should reduce labor for planting.

Tree Inventory: 254 trees were trimmed; these included the 2022 plantings and the pears in the Village. 5 pears were removed from the Village Meadows, and Bluegrass Farm subdivisions: 7260, 7267, and 7319 Crabapple Cove, 10115 Saddle bridge, and 11075 Villacourt.

Forms and documents: Nothing to add.

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Facebook ideas: Rather than providing the equivalent of book reports Sheri will begin a Recommended Reading list beginning with Douglas Tallamy's books: Natures best Hope, Bringing Nature Home, and Nature of Oaks.

With regard to the 3 Horse Chestnut trees at, and near, 9871 Julianna Lane, additional research has been done. Sheri spoke with Stephanie Miller and a local Arborist and was told that the Grugnardinaescules fungus develops due to damp conditions. The Horse Chestnut is sensitive to damp so mulch should be kept clear of the base of the trees. The soil in this area is clay which does not provide sufficient drainage.

There appears to be 3 options open to us: Spray the trees annually to prevent the fungus, see if a neighboring community has an air knife that can be borrowed to cut channels for drainage, or move the trees to a better location since they are only 4 years old and replant the sites with a more suitable species. These options will be presented to Steve Pilcher and we will discuss this topic again in February.

New Business: The Whitehouse Library is interested in expanding activities for the community so Sheri will speak with them about hosting the Tree Commission's Spring Seminar.

We will contact Stephanie Miller with ODNR to see if she will present a homeowners' guide to tree planting on a weekday evening in March.

First Energy will be contacted to determine if they will partner with us again for the Arbor Day Celebration for 2023. We will request 3 volunteers from First Energy to assist with instructing the students about the proper planting and care of a tree and 200 saplings.

The Tree Commission will provide the Teachers with copies from a coloring book published by the Arbor Day Foundation (permission granted) and guidelines for a project that promotes the children developing a Tree Journal to track their saplings progress.

With no additional business, Dianne Toffler moved to adjourn the meeting at 20:14, Elliot Tramer seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by,

Michelle K. Tippie