

Whitehouse Tree Commission

February 27, 2025

- I. Called to order at 7:30. Present: Elliot Tramer, Chris Manzey, Amy Schultz, Laurie Mauro, Angie Boudouris, Diane DeYonker and James Forrest, staff representative.
- II. Diane moved to approve the minutes of the Jan 23, 2025 meeting with the correction of the spelling of Elliot's name. Chris seconded and the motion passed.
- III. Old Business
 - A. Discussed the need to review the tree ordinance. Everyone is to look over the ordinance which can be viewed on the website and come prepared with any suggestions for revisions should they be desired.
 - B. James updated members on the removal of 9 callery pear trees from Village Meadows. The trees were approximately 23-24 yrs. old and in very bad shape. One callery pear was removed from the entrance to Steeplechase. They also did brush clean-up and tree removal by the new bridge.
 - C. Added a "Tree Owners Manual" to the cabinet.
 - D. Mark has volunteered to put items we supply on the Village facebook page. We discussed designing a tree commission logo and Chris volunteered to bring some ideas to our next meeting. We discussed moving this item to the end of the agenda so we could give it the time it needs. A suggestion was made to have the meeting secretary sent the ideas to Mark by the Wednesday after our meeting.
 - E. James has received acceptance from America in Bloom and is waiting to hear when they will visit (most likely in June or July). James will be developing an itinerary for their visit and include various community members. He will also write up a summary of the village.
 - F. The story board project is moving forward. Four stories have been received, concrete bases have been poured and the boards should be in place sometime in the spring. Suggestions were made to have in boards cover local topics during the winter months (birds, trees, seeds, Whitehouse trivia,,,))
 - G. The suggested date for the rain garden presentation is Wed. April 30th, 7-8:30 pm. James will check on board room availability and convey that to Diane who will check with Marilyn Dufour.
- IV. New Business
 - A. Announcements

1. Elliot shared a nice article in the Mirror discussing his appearance at the Council meeting on February 18.
 2. Five members would like to attend Tree City USA on April 16th they include: James, Amy, Elliot, Laurie and Diane.
 3. A Nature Conservancy article on "The Healing Power of Trees" was shared by Elliot.
 4. There is a meeting on Mar. 19 from 5:30-7 regarding plans of the Library and Metroparks. Suggestions were made that we should be present to provide input regarding tree planting.
- B. Elliot has a call into a 3rd grade teacher to set the date for Arbor Day and will also contact Tyler Woodie from First Energy regarding the event. James will look into procuring 3 sycamore trees to be planted behind the shelter house in the park. He will also contact Lucas SWCD to acquire seedlings to hand out to the students. Diane will send contact information for Lucas SWCD to James.
- C. Growth Award Projects being considered for this year include the rain garden presentation, adding a new member to the tree commission, the Arbor Day event, inventorying street trees, and a possible project with the Metroparks removing Ailanthus trees from around the quarry pond behind the Administration Building.
- D. There was discussion of ideas regarding resident engagement for tree plantings. James has some old door hangers and will ask Jill to email copies to us. We would like to redesign the door hangers to convey a more positive message regarding their street tree planting. We also discussed creating cards which applaud homeowners for having a healthy street tree and including a QR code on the card which directs them to a web page on the tree commission.
- E. It was decided that all the members would look over the pages Laurie provided regarding the Tree Commission Academy homework assignment on the Whitehouse Tree Ordinance and present practices regarding the urban forest in our community and bring those back to the meeting in March.
- V. Other ideas discussed including creating a trifold for the Farmers Market display.
- VI. Diane moved to adjourn at 8:52. Seconded by Laurie Mauro.

Respectfully submitted by Diane DeYonker