

Whitehouse Tree Commission Minutes
May 22, 2025

Present: Diane Deyonker, Laurie Mauro, Christine Manzey, Amy Schultz, Elliot Tramer, James Forrest, Steve Connelly

May 22nd Tree Commission Meeting Called to Order: 7:30 PM

I. The April 24, 2025 meeting minutes were approved.

II. Old Business

- **Brief reviews of April 30th presentation and May 5th Arbor Day**
 - Elliot: rain garden presentation was well done, with a lively discussion
 - Elliot thanked James and other Commission members for preparation of materials for the students on Friday, May 2nd. After rain canceled the May 2nd date, the sycamores had to be planted. Weather cooperated and the celebration took place on May 5th, with six Whitehouse staff, an arborist from First Energy Company, Elliot, and 125 third graders from Whitehouse Primary School in attendance. Since soil was no longer available, mulch was provided for the children to shovel around the young sycamores. Karen Gerhardinger provided good publicity photos in the Mirror Newspaper on May 8th.
 - Elliot relayed that the Administrator - Jordan Daugherty - concerned about old silver maples in park area near the playground, and they will have to come out. Jordan proposed planting a grove of sycamore trees which could provide the shade when the maples (eventually) come out. Asked group for feedback. Diane asked if we could use the same site annually to continue to plant sycamores; James confirmed we could do that, but that the motivation was to plant more of them sooner - this fall - approximately 7 or 8 (vs. waiting annually). Enough trees to go around the area, and potentially some other varieties as well. Laurie indicated a diversity of trees would be preferable - Tulip polar may be a good addition. Suggestion was 4 Sycamore and 4 Tulip Poplars.
 - James added that a brick could be ordered to memorialize the tree planting for this year (type of tree(s) planted, Arbor Day 2025); Elliot will follow-up.
- **Tree Inventory:**
 - James provided updates including:
 - Three oak trees in the roundabout which didn't make it through the winter. Replace with same oaks. Elliot asked why they failed - James thought it may be potentially trimmer damage around base.
 - Two river birch by the office which are also dead and need removed. Unsure what trees will replace, would like to not use river birch due to limb loss; looking for a cleaner replacement.
 - Redbud in the plaza on Providence by the depot and is sickly, needing replaced. Plans exist for redoing the plazas, will check with Mike to see where that stands (in next year or so), as that may influence timing of new planting.

- **Tree Commission Availability for America in Bloom Visit:**
 - Elliot indicated that he and Chris would not be in town, sought representatives to be present between 9 and 3:30 on the 23rd and 24th of June. Diane is not available until after 3:30.
- **Forms and Docs**
 - No updates
- **Door Hangers**
 - Diane provided new version of door hanger, which with the addition of the QR Code, will be used. Motion to approve revised format made by Chris, Amy Seconded.
- **Growth Award Progress and Ideas**
 - Elliot communicated that the following items to add in August/September timeframe renewal of Tree City and Growth Award is the first week in December - but we have to plan the contributing activities:
 - story boards should be included in the growth award application, which would need photographed to be included for ~2 points.
 - New member was added this year.
 - New Trees planted.
 - Budget was increased.
 - Tree inventory ~30% of addresses inventoried.
 - Laurie is working through the tree academy this year, which may contribute.
 - Laurie also shared some of the homework given, relevant to tree inventory - updates, inventory process, spending a day with the urban forester (Stephanie), planning the street tree planting for a currently unplanned area. James added that there were several Sassafras indicated on the plan, which are hard to source. Laurie will let us know when she hears from Stephanie to coordinate her visit along with others. Questions from the homework will be included in the next committee meeting.

III. New Business

- **Continue Tree Inventory Began in 2024 - Planning discussion:**
 - Elliot commented that we need to review all places we did last year, and determine which streets remain. Diane had the relevant updates to inform areas to address in 2025, shared with the group. There was an open question related to how far into the lawn we would inventory; center of street to 30' was being used, but on a street without a sidewalk there is some ambiguity. James will check with Mike on what the regulation is - it *may* vary based on development where the right of way is marked. He also indicated that AREIS shows the right of way for each property.
 - Diane reviewed the master plan with the group; James has a zone map in the maintenance shop which could help to guide progress. Elliot will review the

previously completed areas, match back to the zone map, and devise a plan in collaboration with all members, to review at the next meeting.

- **Tree Commission Table at Farmers Market Saturday Mornings-EAB, ALB & SLF awareness**
 - Elliot spoke with Sheri about the farmers market; she was happy to learn of all the updates and progress made this year by the group - and looking forward to being able to come back to our meetings. She suggested Mark Schriefer could help to arrange a farmers market table on Saturday mornings. Discussion around type of materials available to distribute for children who show, and what we should have on hand in the way of information handouts. James thought ODNR may have some materials (Stephanie) may have items.
 - Farmers market begins mid-June; extends ~8 weeks. Will check with the administration on availability of a table.
- **Facebook Ideas From Tree Risk Publication; also EAB, ALB and SLF awareness**
 - Elliot is going to send materials to Mark S. to update the Facebook page; he relayed that

IV. Discuss Other Issues as Appropriate under the Village Charter

- Chris and Elliot will be gone in June and July, overlapping the normal meeting dates.
 - Move June meeting to June 19th, with the July meeting to be July 10th.
 - Diane raised motion to adjust dates seconded by Chris.

Adjournment:

- Amy moved to adjourn at 8:36 PM, seconded by Diane.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Connelly