

Tree Commission Minutes

Thursday, October 24, 2019

Public Works Conference Room – 7:00 P.M.

Attendees: Matt South, Susan Kowalske, Dave Faiman, Megan Ward

Guest: Marilyn Olzmann, Dan Burkholder, Roberto Sorgi

Absent: Phil Butto

Introduction of Dr. Megan Griffiths Ward, new Tree Commission member. Mr. Burkholder introduced Mrs. Ward and noted her professional background, a plant ecologist with a PhD in Biology with a specific emphasis on trees and forests.

Approval of minutes: Mr. South moved that the minutes of the June 27th meeting be approved as submitted. Mrs. Kowalske seconded. All voted in favor.

Public Comment:

Mr. Sorgi requested presentation of tree clearing project. Mr. Burkholder noted this was not included on the agenda however, welcomed Mr. Sorgi.

Reports/Presentations:

Tree Commission Discussion- Mr. Burkholder introduced Roberto Sorgi, American Fireworks representative. Mr. Sorgi noted that American Fireworks is in the process of clearing/brush hogging 6 acres of trees. This is being performed to provide additional product storage due to company growth. Mr. Sorgi pointed out that Mr. Hannan, Community Development Director informed American Fireworks per section 1014 tree removal, The City of Hudson Tree Commission shall review and provide comments/recommendations regarding tree clearing greater than two acres that includes more than 25 trees. Mr. Sorgi also noted a wetlands survey was performed by Flickinger Geoservices Group. It was determined the area does not show signs. Mr. Sorgi mentioned two retention ponds on property are being protected. Mr. Sorgi noted the natural wood line buffer between American Fireworks and residential property boundaries would not be impacted. Mr. Sorgi pledged to make additional landscape improvements to the frontage along Rt.91 upon completion of the road widening project. Mr. Burkholder mentioned clear cutting should be accomplished per Indiana Bat regulations October through March. Mr. Sorgi complied. Mrs. Ward suggested restoring and planting shagbark Hickory trees used as a roost by Indiana Bats. Mr. Sorgi was opened to this suggestion. Mr. South moved to approve proposed plan. Mrs. Kowalske seconded. All voted in favor.

City Council Liaison – Mr. Kelemen did not attend. No comment was made.

Hudson Garden Club Liaison – Mrs. Olzman followed up with the tree planting grant application and confirmed she has received the grant application for 2020.

Urban Forestry Update – Mr. Burkholder provided an update of the decision to try urban growers and a Supertunia Bubble Gum mix for the downtown hanging baskets. Mr. Burkholder reviewed the pros and cons of past and future vendors. Mr. Burkholder expressed thanks to the Garden Club for its support and past donations. It was noted that 27 trees will be planted this November consisting of various species throughout common city green space areas. Mr. Burkholder noted 27 trees will be treated this Fall to improve soil compaction and encourage long-term tree health in areas of the public greens including the new replacement Frontier Elms in the downtown sidewalk cutouts. This includes the use of a natural product to provide additional root stimulants. A soil test revealed a nutrient deficiency. Mr. Burkholder informed of a positive culture test for Oak Wilt Disease. The subject requires ongoing discussions. Mr. Burkholder provided facts to prevent the spread with specific emphasis on pruning restrictions. |

New Business:

Oak Wilt Disease Recap- Mr. Burkholder summarized the potential community impact of Oak Wilt and the importance of getting the word out to the public.

Tree Commission Goals and Objectives:

The Commission expressed a strong interest in getting the message to the public regarding Oak Wilt. Mr. South suggested an article may be beneficial in the local newsletter as well as scheduling with Hudson TV. Mr. Faiman recommended posting information on Homeowners Association websites. Information shall be posted on the forestry website.

Closure of Meeting:

Mr. Faiman moved to cancel the scheduled December 26th meeting due to the holiday. All voted in favor.

Next meeting is scheduled for February 27th at 7:00 P.M. at Public Works Conference Room.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 P.M.

Minutes were submitted by Dan Burkholder, Urban Forester

Matt South, Tree Commission Chairman