

Tree Commission Minutes

Thursday, February 27, 2020

Public Works Conference Room- 7:00

Attendees: Matt South, Susan Kowalske, Phil Butto, Megan Ward

Guests: Dan Burkholder, Skylar Sutton, Janice Lindstrom

Absent: Dave Faiman

Introduction of Skylar Sutton and Janice Lindstrom, new city council liaison and garden club liaison. Mr. Burkholder introduced and noted their credentials, respectively.

Approval of Minutes: Mr. South moved that the minutes of the October 24, 2019 meeting be approved as submitted. Mrs. Kowalske seconded. All voted in favor.

Reports/Presentations:

Tree Commission Discussion- Mr. Burkholder offered a special thank you to Mr. Kelemen and Mrs. Olzman for their dedication and service as tree commission liaisons. Discussions continued regarding oak wilt. The topic will continue to be reviewed. Updates will be provided as they develop.

City Council Liaison- Mr. Sutton provided an update on the Norfolk Southern railroad project starting in March. The week of March 9<sup>th</sup> saw cutting is scheduled for Stow and Hines Hill Road. The clearing will allow crews access to unload rail through road crossings. Any cutting of oak trees should be done before the March 31<sup>st</sup> deadline regarding pruning restrictions.

Hudson Garden Club Liaison- Mrs. Lindstrom updated the Commission on the grant process offered through the garden club.

Urban Forestry Update- Mr. Burkholder provided a 2019 recap of forestry accomplishments. The volume of trees mulched, pruned, planted and treated were points of emphasis. Mr. Burkholder additionally added an oak wilt update and management plan. Included is the importance of pruning restrictions. Mr. Burkholder noted a new program promoting long-term tree health has been implemented. The focus is maximizing and sustaining the urban canopy on public greens.

New Business:

Arbor Day Event- Mr. Burkholder mentioned that early plans are being made to host Arbor Day at Markillie Cemetery as residential requests have been made for tree planting. It was mentioned future events be held in public parks, enabling the community to enjoy newly planted trees. Mr. South agreed, as did the rest of the Commission. Mr. South made a note to congratulate and thank the forestry sector for all the accomplishments and progress made in 2019.

Tree Commission Goals and Objectives- Commission members noted an interest in developing a partnership with Sagamore Soils pertaining to a mulch program to work symbiotically with school athletic programs. Mr. Butto suggested this could be a real positive for the community. Mr. South concurred.

Closure to Meeting:

Next meeting is scheduled for April 30 at 7:00 pm at the Public Works Conference Room.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25

Minutes were submitted by Dan Burkholder, Urban Forester

Matt South, Tree Commission Chairman \_\_\_\_\_

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