

Tree Commission Minutes

Thursday, October 22, 2020

“Zoom” meeting – 7:00 P.M.

Attendees: Matt South, Megan Ward, Jason Brumbach,

Guest: Skylar Sutton, Dan Burkholder, Beth Weiser, Brad Kosco, Phil Leiter

Absent: Phil Butto, Dave Faiman

Public Comment:

None

Approval of Minutes:

Mr. South moved that the minutes of the August 27, 2020 meeting be approved as submitted. Mrs. Ward Seconded, all voted in favor.

Reports/Presentations:

Tree Commission Discussion- Mr. Burkholder introduced Mr. Brad Kosco, City Engineer. Mr. Kosco noted and advised of two upcoming projects. The Brandywine Creek Watershed Action Plan and the Barlow Community Center Dam Project. Mr. Kosco gave a detailed description on both projects with a goal of public communication in mind. Mr. Kosco noted that Brandywine Stream has become entrenched and in need of improvements. A study has determined there are many invasive species inhibiting the area. Mrs. Ward inquired about the replacement of invasive species with native species. Mr. Kosco advised a plan is in place. Mr. Kosco noted that a grant for 185 k for the improvement project has been obtained. The goal is to improve storm water quality. Mr. Kosco mentioned the Owen Brown bridge will be replaced by the Northeast Regional Sewer District. Mr. Sutton inquired whether or not the land was on city property? It was noted that it is. Mr. Brumbach inquired about the upside of the project. Mr. Kosco noted the project has a high upside. Construction is scheduled for the spring of 2022 between Owen Brown and West Prospect roads.

Mr. Kosco informed the Commission of a 1.7 million grant awarded from Northeast Regional Sewer District for the Barlow Dam improvement Project. The main goal is to become compliant with ODNR regulations for a dam. Upon inspections, it was determined improvements were needed to support maximum holding capacity. Efforts were made to preserve a tree buffer for folks residing on Fox Trace Ln. Mr. Sutton offered thanks to Mr. Kosco for his hard work and conscious effort in this area. Construction is scheduled for spring 2021.

City Council Liaison – Mr. Sutton provided a financial update. Year end totals appear to be above previous projections. Mr. Sutton noted the annual five- year plan has been submitted for council’s review. Mr. Sutton provided an update on the sale of the Boston Mills parcel. The area located at 695 Boston Mills Road is near the Reserve at River Oaks subdivision. Mr. Sutton noted the area contains 44.97 acres, with 24.5 acres designated as Category II wetlands. The site plan approved by the planning Commission is for the development of a 43,200 sq. ft. building.

Hudson Garden Club Liaison – Mrs. Lindstrom could not attend. However, provided an update via email. The Hudson Garden Club is exploring options for an outdoor garden only Tour in 2021. However, noted this would be subject to COVID-19. Mrs. Lindstrom offered thanks to Mr. Burkholder for the past selection of trees and mentioned the Garden Club appreciated valuable information and expertise.

Urban Forestry Update – Mr. Burkholder provided an update on the scheduling of oak tree maintenance pruning throughout the city after Nov.1 to comply with pruning restrictions in accordance with oak wilt disease. Residential right of way requests that developed during the growing season will be addressed first. Mr. Burkholder informed the Commission of maintenance pruning to include the clearing of stop signs and speed limit signs as well as intersection line of view issues that have recently been accomplished. Mr. Burkholder shared that the Downtown fall flower display has been installed.

#### New Business:

Commission members mentioned a strong interest in exploring the possibility of the 2021 Arbor Day event and inquiring if this can be coordinated with Hudson Public Schools. Mr. Burkholder agreed to schedule the next meeting on December 17<sup>th</sup> to avoid a holiday conflict. Further discussions are necessary to determine if this is possible due to the pandemic. Mr. Burkholder supported the idea of the Commission planning the event.

#### Tree Commission Goals and Objectives:

Mr. Brumbach inquired if using social media outlets such as Twitter to promote the forestry sector was a possibility? Mr. South mentioned following up with the City Communications Manager. Mr. Burkholder cautioned of creating a work overload within the sector. It should be noted, proper channels need to be followed.

#### Closure of Meeting:

Next meeting is scheduled for December 17 at 7:00 P.M. at Public Works Conference Room.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 P.M.

Minutes were submitted by Dan Burkholder, Urban Forester

Matt South, Tree Commission Chairman

