

Gettysburg Borough Shade Tree Commission Meeting Minutes 3/12/2024

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Shade Tree Commission was held on Tuesday, March 12, 2024, at the Borough Office. Present: David Rice, Chair; Susan Naugle, Member; and Martin Jolin, Member. Absent: Rebecca Brown, Alternate. Also present: Robert Harbaugh, Public Works Director. The meeting was called to order by Chair Rice at 7:05 pm.

MINUTES: Draft minutes for the February 13, 2024, regular meeting were provided prior to the meeting. Following a reading of the minutes, members accepted the minutes as presented.

FINANCIAL REPORT: A report from the Borough Finance Department dated 3/11/2024 shows a balance of \$20,000 with no payments made for 2024. **Commission Members accepted the Finance Report as presented.**

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

PUBLIC WORKS UPDATE: Rob Harbaugh reported he had received two contacts in response to the letters sent to property owners advising of plans to plant street trees adjacent to their properties. Roy and Donna Coldsmith, 325 York Street, asked not to have a tree planted due to concerns with a gas line. Also, PA Counseling Services at 334 York Street expressed concern about cars backing into a tree from their parking spaces. The Commission determined that the plans did not include a tree at that site for that reason. A tree is designated for the sidewalk east of the parking lot area.

Susan noted that a section of sidewalk along Breckenridge Street appears to have fallen where we had planted a tree last fall and wondered if digging the hole may have caused the collapse. Rob indicated that has not happened before but with look at it. The property owner has not reported a problem.

Rob also reported the Code Enforcement Officer advised that a tree on private property at the rear of 526 York Street (along Furniture Alley) is dead and limbs are falling onto other properties. The CEO requested the Commission authorize payment to a certified arborist to inspect the tree so he can take necessary action. **Chair Rice moved to authorize Public Works to contract with an arborist for tree inspection at 526 York St., seconded by Susan Naugle. Motion was approved.** Rob will make the contact and advise the CEO of the inspection results.

DISCUSSION OF SPRING PLANTING SITES: The Commission reviewed the permit request submitted by David Todd, 633 and 639 Red Patch Avenue, to plant two Snow Goose Cherries in the grass strip in front of his duplex. Members reviewed the 11 trees presented at the February meeting. In addition to adding the two trees for Red Patch Avenue, the only change was to not include 325 York Street for the five trees to be planted from 317 to 333 York St. **The Commission, on a motion by Marty Jolin and second by Susan Naugle, unanimously approved the purchase and planting of 13 trees this spring.** Marty has ordered all 13 trees from Schott's and Rob Harbaugh with arrange for pick-up, payment and planting. Exact locations will depend on results of One-Call to locate utilities. Marty also reported that the Borough has established an account with Schott's for future tree purchases.

OTHER OLD BUSINESS:

SIDEWALK ORDINANCE REVISIONS: No status updates.

REQUEST FOR TREE REMOVAL – 38 EAST STEVENS STREET: An estimate for the removal of two trees submitted by Pennington Tree Service was \$2,165, about half the estimate from Blevins Tree Service. The commission had authorized removal at the February meeting to the lowest acceptable quote and directed Rob to contact Pennington and arrange for removal.

The property owners will replace the sidewalk once the trees are removed. Public Works will work with them to assure proper tie-in with adjacent sidewalk areas if that is needed.

UPDATES TO ORDINANCE LIST OF SUGGESTED TREES: Deferred to future meetings. A suggestion was made to see if it is possible to adopt the list from State College Borough.

ANNUAL REPORT TO COUNCIL: The final report was provided to the Borough Secretary to provide to the Council.

NEW BUSINESS: Susan advised that she distributed tree information to all the addresses where trees were planted last fall.

Rob advised that the Borough will soon be proceeding with work on N. Washington Street which will include installation of a tree well to catch stormwater. This will be in the area of the parking spaces in front of the Ice House complex owned by the College. The College would like to choose the trees. He will provide information about the trees chosen when that is available.

Rob also noted the heaved sidewalk area at the corner of Franklin and Chambersburg Streets. Susan had attempted to contact the property owner but did not get a response. She will make another attempt.

Having no other business for discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

The next meeting of the Commission will be held on April 9, 2024.

Minutes prepared by Susan Naugle 03/18/2024