

**TREE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
CITY OF PIQUA, OHIO  
THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 2011 – 6:30 P.M.  
MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT COMPLEX – TRIANGLE CONFERENCE ROOM**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Melissa Reed, Judy Terry, Don Ruffner and Larkin Cornett

MEMBERS ABSENT: Brenda Vetter and Jean Frantz

STAFF PRESENT: Bob Graeser

GUEST: Regina Favorite and Melissa Randles

**MEETING MINUTES**

Judy Terry moved to approve the March 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting minutes with the amendments, and Melissa Reed seconded the motion.

**ITEM NO 1. WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

Bob Graeser started the meeting by welcoming our newest member to the committee, Larkin Cornett. He passed out new handbooks to all the members and discussed the basic framework of the committee and the overall duties. The committee introduced themselves and made him feel welcome. The committee moved to table the election of a Chairperson, to the next meeting when all members would be present.

**ITEM NO 2. ARBOR DAY**

Arbor Day will be on Friday, April 29<sup>th</sup>. Bob Graeser said that he has been in contact with Teresa Anderson the principal of Nicklin Learning Center. She said that they are more than willing to help us again with the Arbor Day celebration. Bob mentioned that he was asked to plant a memorial tree in Fountain Park for a resident that lost his son last year. He thought it would be a nice gesture to combine these events Arbor Day and the planting of this memorial tree in memory of the departed. Bob said he would contact all the commissioners, the mayor, The Piqua Daily Call, to make sure all proper dignitaries' are properly notified. Bob mentioned that he would finalize all the details and make sure the committee is informed as well.

**ITEM NO 3 PITSENBARGER PARK.**

Over the last month the Parks department has been busy, trimming and removing Ash trees in Pitsenbarger Park. Bob told the committee that he would ask the Parks Department to mark additional trees that they would like to have removed with a stake. He would contact the tree committee members to review these trees, for removal. The trees in a planting island will be removed and replanted with a more suitable species for this planting location.

Trees in Fountain Park have been marked throughout the park to price for removal. These trees have been determined to be hazard and have been put on a list to be removed when funds will permit. Parks Department has started an extensive trimming program with the assistance of the Urban Forrester, Bob Graeser.

Melissa Reed mentioned that there was some trimming that took place at the Canal Place Parking lot, to some crab apples trees, there was some improper practices that Bob said he would look into.

Melissa Reed said that there was a hazard tree that should be reviewed at Franklin and Green. She asked when Bob would be reviewing the current hazard trees. Bob said he will try to assess the trees after they reached full foliage.

### **EAB GRANT MANAGEMENT**

Bob Graeser, enclosed in everyone's handbook a copy of the letter from Ohio Department of Natural Recourses that informed the City that they wouldn't be funded in the 2011 Grant cycle.

Bob called the donor that the City received a donation from and they were comfortable with permitting the City to retain the funds and to continue with the removal of the Ash Tree removal as would best suit the needs of the community. Bob discussed with the City Manger about removing the largest Ash trees with the current fund balance. Bob mentioned he may want to see what the infestation looks like later in the month before he starts to do more public information about the trees.

Larkin Cornnett mentioned that the JVS Environmental Occupations Class may be able to help with the removal of the City's Ash trees. Bob said that he would contact the instructors to get a better understanding of their capacity. The committee agreed to move forward with removing the largest caliper trees within the City's right of way with the current source of funds.

### **FUNDING AND GRANTS.**

At the last meeting Steve Trostel brought to the committee some suggestion for some additional funding options. After some time it was found that these opportunities didn't suite the committee. One of the options was a gift card that could be used for productions and services, the committee decided that nursery stock from this type of a retailer wouldn't be the best choice for future plantings.

Bob mentioned that he was going to investigate other opportunities for special funding to bolster the tree removal and planting program with the City's grant writer Bill Lutz.

### **OTHER BUSINESS.**

Don Ruffner mentioned the Pine trees at Giles Park, some of the trees have been trimmed, however some of the limbs that were left should have been removed. Bob said he would have the Parks Department look at this.

Melissa Reed motioned to adjourn the meeting and Judy Terry seconded them motion.  
The next meeting will be May 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 in the Triangle Meeting room.

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**Chairperson**

**Passed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Attest:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Bob Graeser**  
**Staff Secretary**