

**TREE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF PIQUA, OHIO
THURSDAY, May 5, 2011 – 6:30 P.M.
MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT COMPLEX – TRIANGLE CONFERENCE ROOM**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Don Ruffner, Brenda Vetter, Jean Frantz and Larkin Cornett

MEMBERS ABSENT: Judy Terry and Melissa Reed

STAFF PRESENT: Bob Graeser

MEETING MINUTES

Don Ruffner moved to approve the April 7th meeting minutes and Jean Frantz seconded the motion.

ITEM No 1. ASSOCIATED MEETINGS

Bob Graeser started the meeting by discussing the all the associated meetings regarding the Tree Committee in the past month.

On April 12, the City of Piqua received their 16th Tree City USA award that was held at Hobart Arena in Troy.

The Arbor Day celebration was held in the south end of Fountain Park this year. Nicklin Learning Center kindergartners were in attendance to read the poem “Trees” by Joyce Kilmer and assisted with the planting of the memorial tree for Jay Wortman. Friends and family were also present for the tree dedication. Pioneer Rural Electric partnered with the Tree Committee and provided coloring books to the students, to help to warn students of the dangers of exposed and fallen wires.

Bob Graeser attended the Emerald Ash Borer regional meeting also since the last month’s meeting. The committee discussed the continued movement of the Emerald Ash Borer and its effects on west central Ohio. There were several communities that received assistance via the ODNR grant, in which the city of Piqua was denied funds. Bob said that he intends to find out more about the scoring to see if there is something that could have been done to enhance the chance the funding in the future.

Bob told the committee that EAB Awareness week will be 5/22 thru 5/28, a special proclamation will be read at next Commission meeting Tuesday 17th.

During this week on Access Piqua Television, Bob will be doing a program with special guest Wendi Van Buren, Regional Urban Forrester of Ohio Department of Natural Resources. The program will consist of indentifying Ash trees, and the tell tale signs of Ash trees in decline within the City.

ITEM No. 2 CHAIRPERSON ELECTION

Because all members weren't in attendance it was decided to table the election of the Chair Person to the next meet meeting.

OLD BUSINESS.

Funding resources

Bob Graeser was able to find several foundations to help to reinforce the current tree fund. Because the tree committee will be faced with the removal of a large amount of Ash Trees in the City, it was determined that we need to find some supplemental sources to help to offset the costs. Bob said that he would be sending out letters to these foundations before the next scheduled meeting.

Environmental Occupations Class Instructors

Bob will be meeting with the two instructors of the Environment Occupations Class from the UVJVS next week. Larkin Cornett one of newest members of the committee is a graduate of their class and suggested that we approach them to see if they would be willing to help with the removal of the Ash Trees in our community. Larkin said that they have the capability to removal large caliper trees and may be able to provide a service at little expense to the city.

Trees in Pitsenberger Park

The parks department was given the "go ahead" to remove the trees in Pitsenberger Park. There was an additional discussion regarding the trees that were trimmed and taken out prior to request for a tree survey by the committee members. The work that the Parks department did was an effort to remove all the low hanging limbs and dead limbs to reduce sticks that have to be picked up prior to every mowing. This is effort was also moved to the south end of Fountain Park. Parks crews plan on continuing this effort when time will permit throughout the year.

OTHER BUSINESS

Don Ruffner mentioned that the trees on the north side of Green Street Church have been damaged and asked the committee if he could personally replace the trees since this was his church. The committee approved this effort without a vote. Don asked if Bob would approve the planting of a Horse Chestnut tree in this location. Bob told Don that he would review the tree's characteristics and let him know.

Jean Franz mentioned the damaged trees at Mote Park, and also mentioned that the neighborhood committee would be planting bedding plants in the park over the weekend.

Larkin Cornett, suggested that the committee begin to look into a memorial service for the tenth year anniversary of September 11, 2001. Bob said that Larkin should look into this and report back to the committee with further details.

Don Ruffner motioned to adjourn the meeting, and Jean Frantz seconded the motion. Next meeting will be June 2nd 2011 in the Triangle Conference Room at 6:30 in the Municipal Government Complex.

Chairperson

Passed: _____

Attest: _____
Bob Graeser
Staff Secretary