

**TREE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF PIQUA, OHIO
THURSDAY, June 2, 2011 – 6:30 P.M.
MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT COMPLEX – TRIANGLE CONFERENCE ROOM**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Don Ruffner, Brenda Vetter, Jean Frantz, Melissa Reed,
Judy Terry and Larkin Cornett

GUEST: Melissa Randles

STAFF PRESENT: Bob Graeser

MEETING MINUTES

Melissa Reed moved to approve the May 5th meeting minutes as amended and Larkin Cornett seconded the motion.

NEW BUSINESS

ITEM No. 1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMEN

Bob Graeser stated that the committee hasn't had chairmen since Melissa Randles left her position at the end of last year, and he opened to the floor for nominations. Don Ruffner nominated Melissa Reed, there was a vote all members passed unanimously. Melissa started as chairperson effective immediately.

ITEM No. 2 EAB OF 2011

Last week Bob Graeser mentioned that it was "EAB Awareness Week" in the City of Piqua. He mentioned that he did a program with Wendi Van Buren of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources to try and help to educate the citizens on the identification of Ash Trees and also to discuss the effects of the Emerald Ash Borer. Bob also did an article with Bethany Royer in the Piqua Daily Call, to also build public awareness.

Bob has done several surveys throughout the City reviewing the current condition of all the trees in the right of way. He was pleased to report that the effects of the EAB in our urban forest are minimal this year. He stated that we have three trees that have died and two of them are of a small caliper less than 12", this would require little cost for removal. Bob mentioned that he has asked the City's grant writer to assist him in the submission letters to worthy foundations that may be able to help with the Ash tree removal in the future. Bob said that he is more concerned with the large caliper tree, because of the damage that they can do once they begin to decline.

OLD BUSINESS

ENVIRONMENTAL OCCUPATIONS CLASS AT UVJVS

On May 10, 2011 Bob Graeser met with Jim Metz and Rod Schmidt of the Environmental Occupations class of the UVJVS. The main thrust of this meeting was to see what level of work assistance the Environmental class could give the tree committee with the removal of the dying Ash trees. As somewhat expected the level of safety and liability was a controlling factor that limits student's ability of help the city in a tree removal capacity. Bob also spoke the instructors to see if they would be interested in helping provide help for the replanting of the trees on Nicklin Avenue. Bob also mentioned that he would like to send a letter to Russ Fashner of Northparks Neighborhood Association to see if he would underwrite a portion of the cost for the new trees along the Nicklin Avenue Boulevard.

The committee discussed having meetings at their facility to help to understand the program and help to augment our committee's current resources of a local research location.

MEMORIAL SERVICE OF SEPTEMBER 11,2001

Larkin Cornett discussed about having the memorial service in Heritage Green to commemorate those that died on September 11, 2001. Larkin also discussed about the type of tree that we could plant there. Judy Terry said that she has a meeting June the 6th at Westminster Church that is regarding the commemorate the date of September 11, 2001, she said that she would bring to the committee her findings.

OTHER

Further discussion was brought up about funding for the future cost of the removal of the Ash trees in the Urban forest of the City. Bob mentioned that we should find some way, such as a fund raiser or petition companies to make donations to remove the necessary trees that the City crews are unable to remove.

Melissa Reed mentioned contacting Lorna Swisher to see if she could be able to come up with perhaps a way to procure the necessary funds to relieve the City from this obvious obstruction

Bob mentioned that he would contact a local Tree removal company that may be willing to donate their time to remove several trees a year to help with the removal.

Wendi Van Buren, our regional Urban Forester from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, would be another excellent resource to help to steer the committee to help to find some creative alternatives.

Melissa Reed mentioned that the committee should continue the work on Chapter 96, this will be a line item on the month's agenda.

There was a short discussion regarding the trees on 25A, should we continue to permit these trees to continue in their current state. The committee agreed that the Urban Forester should review these trees, and let the committee know what his finding may be.

Don Ruffner added four new trees in the planting area on the north side of Greene Street Church, Don is a member at the church and led the charge to replant the trees that were damaged.

Brenda Vetter stated that there was a fund set up in honor of the passing of her mother-in-law, the stewards of the fund would like to plant several trees with the amount of funds that were raised in her honor. Bob Graeser told the Brenda to have the committee hold the funds until more information on the placement of the trees and appropriate location for the memorial plaque are decided.

The trees in Fountain Park there is a dead tree that is close to the tree that is marked #10 that should be considered for removal.

Bob Graeser passed out the Tree Commission Academy applications to all the members and spoke highly of the benefits of the program. Bob said much could be gained by their participation in the program as committee members of the City of Piqua Tree Committee.

Chairman adjourned meeting.

NEXT MEETING

Next meeting is scheduled for July 7th at 6:30 in the Triangle Conference Room at 6:30 in the Municipal Government Complex.

Chairperson

Passed: _____

Attest: _____
Bob Graeser
Staff Secretary