

**TREE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
CITY OF PIQUA, OHIO  
THURSDAY, JANUARY 5, 2012 – 6:30 P.M.  
MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT COMPLEX – TRIANGE CONFERENCE ROOM**

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

STAFF PRESENT: Bob Graeser and Chris Schmiesing

GUESTS: Steve Trostel and David Lawrence

**MEETING MINUTES**

Judy Terry moved to approve the July meeting minutes and Jean Frantz seconded the motion.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**ITEM No.1 CANAL PLACE MASTER PLAN**

City Planner Chris Schmiesing presented the master plan for Canal Place Plaza. Chris showed the committee the drawing that was submitted by Cypripedium Landscape Studios, Inc, that showed rain gardens and a general layout of the design elements for the plan. Chris mentioned that this was a project that is being primarily funded by MainStreet Piqua. Other funds will be provided by the Storm Water Department as part of the necessary education required by the Environmental Protection Agency.

Chris wanted to mention that this is merely in the planning stage; however he wanted to present it to the committee to allow input on the tree species recommend for this area. The Committee had a short discussion regarding the different conditions that should be considered. Chris stated that the project would be completed in the 2012 calendar year.

**ITEM No. 2 COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS**

Bob Graeser discussed extending the relationship with Upper Valley Career Center, Environmental Occupations Class. The City is looking to have some trees removed from the Golf Course. Bob will give the students the opportunity to partner with the City on this upcoming project.

It was also discussed about extending the relationship with A.M. Leonard, as a supplier/partner, because of their willingness to help with the fall tree planting project. The City can also explore collaborating with other groups such as the Forest Hill Cemetery employees who have expressed interest in partnering; several employees are interested in Arboriculture.

Bob mentioned that he went to the last quarterly meeting of the Piqua Community Advisory Committee to introduced himself, he also extended himself as an Arborist for the City.

Bob also mentioned the latest development of the Emerald Ash Borer and the newest of Ohio's pests, the Asian long horned beetle.

Melissa Reed suggested the Committee send thank you letters to all the active participants that helped with the efforts of the of the advancement of the Tree committee in 2011. It was suggested that the committee members individually sign the thank you letters.

### **ITEM No. 3 FRIENDS OF PIQUA TREES**

Chairperson Reed introduced the idea of starting a community effort to solicit funds through community donations, for the purpose of promoting trees in our urban forest.

Bob discussed having members from the committee be active in the advancement of the idea of "Friends of Piqua Trees." He also said that further work would have to be done to make sure both the efforts would be approved by City of Piqua administration.

### **ADJOURN**

Meeting was dismissed by Chairperson Melissa Reed.

### **NEXT MEETING**

Next meeting will be February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2012 in the Triangle Conference Room at 6:30 in the Municipal Government Complex.

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**Chairperson**

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

**Attest:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Bob Graeser**  
**Staff Secretary**