

**TREE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF PIQUA, OHIO
THURSDAY , JUNE 5, 2014 – 3:00 P.M.
MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT COMPLEX – TRIANGLE CONFERENCE ROOM**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Larkin Cornett, Brenda Vetter, Judy Terry, and Regina Favorite

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jesse Dotson

SPECIAL GUEST: None

STAFF PRESENT: Bob Graeser

MEETING MINUTES

Judy Terry moved to approve the February 6, 2014 meeting minutes and Regina Favorite seconded the motion.

NEW BUSINESS

Bob Graeser started the meeting by informing the members that Jesse Dotson submitted his resignation to the Tree Committee. He said that he needed to resign from the committee because of health reasons.

ARBOR DAY

Bob Graeser reviewed the Arbor Day celebration that was held on April 17th, with the Early Childhood Students of Edison State Community College. Kelli Gerlach is the Director of this program, was Bob's contact for the event and once again it was a great time. Tree Care Inc. and Pioneer Rural Electric helped to underwrite the event by providing coloring books and trees that every student was able to take home to plant. Mayor Fess was there to read the proclamation, as well as other City officials and Edison representatives.

TREE CITY USA

On April 11th the City of Piqua received its nineteenth award for achieving the Tree City USA award. This year the event was held in Tipp City. The City of Piqua received an additional award from State Senator Bill Beagle, as a special commendation to the City for its efforts over the years of being a supporter of the Tree City USA program.

UPPER VALLEY CAREER CENTER STUDENTS

On April 23, the City of Piqua Water Treatment Superintendent Don Freisthler hosted a work day with the students of Upper Valley Career Center Environmental Occupations Class. The students were lead by Jim Metz and Mikkie Quinter instructors of the class. The students were directed to remove Honeysuckle on the bank of the hydraulic canal for about 200 feet along the bank. Tree Care Inc. provided their Woodsman chipper for the day to chip all the removed Honeysuckle. The project was a great success and another project completed by the Upper Valley CC students. This group is well trained and extremely capable; the City will continue to use them with future collaborative efforts within the city.

I-75/ 36 STAKE REMOVALS

On Friday April 18th Bob Graeser removed all the tree stakes at the I-75 and U.S. R.T.36 landscape project. These stakes were installed when the original project was completed in 2010.

TREE OF HEAVEN

Bob Graeser said that he would like to have Tree of Heaven eradication work days for the committee. The Tree of Heaven or *Ailanthus altissimo*, is a highly evasive, weed tree that is fast multiplying that is very difficult to kill. When it grows it takes the place of native natural plants and trees that may flourish. The work days would include brief time of education of proper ways girdling the trees and spraying them with a special vegetation killer.

Judy Terry said she would recommend that we have our July 10th meeting at Fountain Park, so we can have an instructional meeting for these procedures.

HAZARD TREES, ASH TREE REMOVAL

Bob informed the group that this summer the City will be sending out bids for the removal of specific Ash Trees and Hazard Trees in the right of way. These trees are surveyed twice a year and rated on their hazardous conditions. The right of way area would be the area between the curb and sidewalk where these trees would be located.

ADJOURN

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Brenda Vetter, and seconded by Judy Terry.

Next meeting will be Thursday, July 10th at 3:00 pm at Fountain Park dining shelter north of the Dining Hall.

Minutes prepared by Bob Graeser, Staff Secretary.