

**TREE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF PIQUA, OHIO
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2014 – 3:00 P.M.
TRIANGLE MEETING ROOM**

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

SPECIAL GUEST: None

STAFF PRESENT: Bob Graeser

MEETING MINUTES

Judy Terry moved to approve the July 10, 2014 meeting minutes and Regina Favorite seconded the motion.

HAZARD AND ASH TREE REMOVALS

Bob Graeser began the meeting discussing the second phase of tree removals for the Ash trees and Hazard trees. This work is performed annually and included 30 trees that are inventoried and viewed as hazardous trees, within the right of way; the area between the curb and the sidewalk. Bob showed the committee members some pictures of trees that were removed which were completely hollow. This affirms the need for this scheduled program to continue until all the possible hazardous trees are removed along the streets to provide the greatest level of public safety for the citizens of the City. Bob stated these trees are actually the responsibility of the property owner to maintain, however the City recognizes these trees may be a hazard to cars in the parking lane and possible pedestrians.

Bob explained to the committee, they may receive more questions about the trees the City is removing. He informed them the trees are inventoried twice a year and are evaluated based on severity of the trees current condition, in regard to public safety. He asked if someone wants to check to see if their tree is on one of these two lists, to have the property owner call him.

Brenda Vetter mentioned there is a tree in the 700 block of S. Downing that is dead and needs to be removed.

TREE OF HEAVEN IDENTIFICATION

On September 26th Bob said he did a program with Terry Lavy, of The Environmentalist LLC, to be viewed on a later date on WOTVC Channel 5, about Invasive Plants. This

program was a public education tool to help property owners become more aware of some of our invasive plants and how to control their growth. Terry Lavy has extensive knowledge of the natural ecosystem, and how they affect our native plants. The City of Piqua Works department will be treating the Honeysuckle trees on the bank of the river from Goodrich Giles Park north to the power plant, within the next couple of months.

Bob said he wanted to have a work day for the Tree Committee members on October 25, to treat Tree of Heaven trees, with herbicide in this area so this complete area can be removed of invasive plants and provide a clear unobstructed path to the river in the future.

ENVIRONMENTAL OCCUPATIONS CLASS

Bob said the Environment Occupations class from the Upper Valley Career Center will be continuing their work at the Golf Course starting this month. There are an estimated 40 Ash trees that are at different levels of inevitable death at the golf course which need to be removed. Bob said because of recent winters he wanted he have the group start sooner to try and remove as many trees as possible. Currently the group is scheduled for two, two day events in the month of October. This project will be supported by employees and equipment of the Public Works Department.

STREET RESURFACING

Bob explained the reason for the ribbons on the trees on High Street in last week. As a part of the annual street resurfacing program it is required that all trees are inspected to ensure there is adequate clearance for the mill and the paver, which requires about 12'-0" of clearance of any overhanging branches. All the trees are properly trimmed to reduce damage to the trees as the procedure is performed.

ADJOURN

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting by, Regina Favorite and seconded by Judy Terry.

Next meeting will be Thursday, November 6th at 3:00 pm at the Municipal Government Complex.

Minutes prepared by Bob Graeser, Staff Secretary.