

**TREE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF PIQUA, OHIO
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2014 – 3:00 P.M.
TRIANGLE MEETING ROOM**

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Regina Favorite

SPECIAL GUEST: None

STAFF PRESENT: Bob Graeser

MEETING MINUTES

Diane Hart moved to approve the October 2, 2014 meeting minutes and Brenda Vetter seconded the motion.

SOUTHWEST OHIO URBAN FORESTRY CONFERENCE

On October 22, Bob Graeser attended the Southwest Ohio Urban Forestry Conference for western Ohio urban foresters. Some of the days topics included “Storm Preparedness” and the Asian Longhorned Beetle threat within the state of Ohio.

There was a interesting presentation on “ Looking back 15 years after the tornado went through the City of Montgomery” This was a fascinating look into storm preparedness, and the actual event makes you aware that you are never really ready for a major disaster such as this. Terry Willenbrink, the Public Works Director gave a nearly hair raising account of the incidents that occurred in their community, and how communities can better safeguard themselves for these type of events.

Additionally, Phil Baldauf, of USDA APHIS, spoke to the attending group about the Asian Longhorned Beetle, and their continued pursuit to completely stop the advancement of this invasive pest, in the Battavia Township area, as well as the Monroe Township. Within the region of Batavia, Monroe, and Stonelick Townships over 54,000 trees have been removed to stop the advancement of this insect that kills, Maples, Elm, and other hardwood trees. The hope is to completely remove this pest by removing the host tree within the isolated area.

Bob also discussed with the group that he would like to start a tree renewal program. The City has been taking out a large number of trees and will continue to remove additional trees that are hazardous. It was mentioned that trees can be offered to residents at a shared cost along the same routes as the resurfacing projects that are done annually. These trees would have to be appropriate trees for the space provided, and not all areas would qualify to receive a street tree. Bob also mentioned that in some areas, nearly every house could be a recipient of a tree. This would obviously exceed the allowable funds to provide trees for everyone.

TREE OF HAVEN WORKDAY

On October 25 was Tree of Heaven workday. Jim Vetter joined Bob to treat the trees along the river near Goodrich Giles Park.

Before the end of the month Bob continued to treat the trees along the levy bank at Fountain Park. Bob mentioned that these trees will be removed by the students of Upper Valley Career Center, Environmental Occupations Class this summer. These students are hired out of the Water Department, in the effort to clean the levy of Honeysuckle and other invasive woody plants on the hydraulic canal.

OTHER BUSINESS

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

Larkin Cornett, informed the group that he and his family will be moving to the Covington area, and will not be able to be on the Tree Committee. The Committee commented on how much they would miss his peaceful, pleasant, demeanor, and all wished him well in his future endeavors.

ADJOURN

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

Minutes prepared by Bob Graeser, Staff Secretary.