

**TREE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF PIQUA, OHIO
THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 2015 – 3:00 P.M.
ADMINISTRATION CONFERENCE ROOM**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Judy Terry, Regina Favorite, and Diane Hart

GUEST: Jim Vetter

STAFF PRESENT: Bob Graeser

MEETING MINUTES

Diane Hart moved to approve the February 5, 2015 meeting minutes, and Judy Terry seconded the motion.

25A TREE REMOVALS

As a part of Country Road 25A reconstruction project which is going out to bid, the apparent low bidder will be released on April 23, 2015. However on federally funded projects all the tree removals must be done prior to April 1st or they would have to wait until September 30th to ensure that the Indiana Bats and the Northern Long Eared Bat would not lose their potential roosting locations.

This portion of the project must begin prior to actual construction, therefore on Monday, March 23rd Tree Care Inc. will be removing the trees that are apart of construction on the project. Most of these trees are in serious decline, and have been improperly trimmed, therefor removal is somewhat timely.

Additionally the Safe Routes to Schools project has some trees that need to be removed to provide adequate sunlight for the solar powered crosswalk pedestrian crossing lights. The design specifications require that these solar panels be clear from any obstructions which would reduce necessary light panel absorption. The trees that need to be removed are on the corner of Greene and Broadway, Boone and Broadway, and College and North Street.

Educational videos

As a part of additional education videos the committee was subjected to a riveting video regarding proper tree felling. Tree felling or tree logging is on the list of one of “The Top Ten Most Dangerous Jobs in the Nation” with a high-risk of dismemberment or death. This is good information for the committee to be aware of and the potential risks it presents to workers in our right of way.

The committee members commented on the intricacy and precision that is required for felling a tree in a proper manner, and all the necessary safety equipment that is required under ANSI standards for proper adherence to the safety regulations. Bob pointed out this should be an observed common best practice, however most Arborist don’t abide by these regulations.

NEW BUSINESS

Jim Vetter suggested that the committee use the “Big Day” as an opportunity to clean Goodrich Giles Park this spring.

Additional discussion was given to seeing how well the spraying of the Honeysuckle and the hack and squirt treatments on the Tree of Heaven along the park. These trees can be removed perhaps this summer, after they are surveyed.

ADJOURN

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

Minutes prepared by Bob Graeser, Staff Secretary.