

**TREE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF PIQUA, OHIO
THURSDAY JUNE 13, 2019 – 4:00 P.M.
ADMINISTRATIVE CONFERENCE ROOM**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Steve Trostel, Randi Simon-Serey, and Mary Tolman

MEMBERS ABSENT: Kris Lee

GUEST: Kyrsten French

STAFF PRESENT: Bob Graeser

MEETING MINUTES

Steve Trostel motioned to accept the minutes from the April 2019 meeting. Randi Simon-Serey seconded the motion.

UPDATE ON BARE ROOTS

This year's bare root tree planting went very well. Bob said the tree roots were dipped into Tera Sorb and then the trees were placed in mulch until they were planted. The trees were planted and are now budding. Bob and Ben Gover planted 8 trees in an hour. Bob will talk to Ben Gover about tree staking them and getting some fertilizer on them.

Planning for 2020's Bare Root Program has begun. One of the planting locations is the Deerfield subdivision. The utilities in the planned spaces are located in the tree lawn between the sidewalk and the curb on High Street. Gary told Bob that those trees can be planted on private property if the property owner wants a tree and signs a work release.

Another location is on 25A as you enter the city from the north. The soil is poor in this location so it needs to be enhanced with compost this year to plant trees next year. If enhancing the soil works with the test trees, then that city entrance can be lined with trees in the near future.

Sky Schelle and his interns are promoting the Bare Root Program.

ARBOR DAY

This year's Arbor Day Celebration took place at Springcreek Primary School. After Eric Davis from Tree Care spoke and Mayor Hinds read the Proclamation, the 3rd graders helped plant a tree. The children received coloring books from Pioneer Electric, as well as small trees to plant at home. Pioneer Electric partnered with Tree Care Inc. as the sponsors for the event.

TREE CITY USA AWARDS

The City of Piqua received its 24th Tree City USA Award. Piqua also received its 2nd Growth Award for tree planting on private property and modifying the City's specifications in the Standard Drawings pertaining to construction around trees.

HAZARD TREE REMOVALS

The 2019 hazard tree removals have been completed. Bob has started working on the 2020 Hazard Tree Removal list. Next year Bob can offer a replacement tree to the owners of the removed hazard tree.

Tree Care Inc. was activated for an emergency call to deal with a tree that came down during a storm on Memorial Day weekend. The tree came down across West High Street; however it didn't cause any property damage. Tree Care Inc. was on location in less than an hour and the tree was taken care of in an hour. The stump will be removed next year as a part of the Hazard Tree Removals.

LIVE CHRISTMAS TREE PROGRAM

Starting a live Christmas tree program was discussed. Residents would buy a live Christmas tree, keep it 7-10 days, and then donate it to the City to plant in a park or vacant lot. The trees would be 3-4 feet tall. The City would limit the number of donated trees based on available space.

Steve Trostel suggested having an article in the fall Spirit Newsletter to inform residents that the city would take Christmas tree donations.

OTHER INFORMATION

The Community Canopy Program is providing funds to plant about 100 trees on private property in Piqua. The program has an interactive website that helps the property owner pick a location for their tree. It will not allow them to pick a location in the Right of Way or too close to a structure. It will also calculate the energy savings the tree may provide. This will take place in the fall.

ADJOURN

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Steve Trostel, and Mary Tolman seconded the motion.

Minutes prepared by Bob Graeser, Staff Secretary.