

**TREE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF PIQUA, OHIO
MONDAY SEPTEMBER 30, 2019 – 4:00 P.M.
ADMINISTRATIVE CONFERENCE ROOM**

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Kris Lee

GUEST: Steve Yenny

STAFF PRESENT: Bob Graeser

MEETING MINUTES

Steve Trostel motioned to accept the minutes from the June 2019 meeting. Mary Tolman seconded the motion.

LIVE CHRISTMAS TREE PROGRAM

Bob said it may be getting too late in the year to start the Live Christmas Tree Program this year. He will try to get it started but time constraints may be a problem.

2020 BARE ROOTS

Bob said the tree planting budget will be reduced for 2020. The Bare Root Program will be modified based on the approved budget. The expected \$6000 budget will include bare root trees and replacement trees on High Street.

Bob will talk to the Career Center about planting the 6-7 replacement trees needed on Lambert and Candlewood. Bob thinks the school should be able to handle planting the ball & burlap trees.

Bob said the hazard tree budget will also be reduced in 2020. \$14,000 is the anticipated amount. Bob stated that he didn't think this would be a problem the reduction of the hazardous trees has greatly been reduced due to continued removal from previous years.

Steve Trostel asked if the City should acquire an Ohio Nursery Dealer's License so the trees can be purchased wholesale. The trees could be purchased from Brown's or StudeBaker at the time of the planting instead of buying in bulk and caring for the trees until they are planted.

Bob doesn't think the City does enough to get a Dealer's License. He also pointed out that local nurseries don't carry the bare root trees that the City is mostly planting. Those would still have to be ordered and delivered from out of the area. At \$40 a tree, bare root trees are more cost effective than ball & burlap trees.

Steve Trostel mentioned that some of the bare root trees planted in Pitsenbarger Park are not doing very well. Bob said he would let the Park Department know that the trees need to be

watered. Steve suggested partnering with the Friends of the Piqua Parks to help water, fertilize and mulch the trees.

Bob said that the Commercial Street bike path tree planting probably won't happen this year, but he will look at this year's remaining budget to see if some of it can be done.

OTHER INFORMATION

Steve Yenney has concerns about the trees on the Golf Course. He said they are not cutting down dead trees in a timely manner. He also said they have a cottonwood tree and cottonwoods are on the prohibited tree list. Bob said he would go look at the tree. Bob explained that budgets limit the amount of trimming and tree removal that the city can do. The City focuses more on cutting down hazardous trees in the right of way as opposed to cutting down healthy established trees that are on the prohibited list. The City only regulates street trees, not trees on private property.

Steve Yenney said that City Ordinance 91.37 specifically states that cottonwood trees are not allowed in Piqua. Bob said he will look into that ordinance. He said the code should be amended or removed to agree with the revised tree ordinances.

Steve Yenney suggested putting the prohibited tree list on the City website so it's more available to citizens.

Steve Yenney also wanted to know if the City would mediate tree problems between neighbors. Bob said that the City doesn't get involved with trees on private property. Disagreements on private property are civil matters. He suggested talking to the neighbor to try and come to an agreement on any problem trees. Steve Trostel said he had a problem with a neighbor's tree. He talked to the neighbor and the neighbor had the tree removed the next day.

Steve Yenney asked about grinding tree stumps down. Bob explained that in the right of way the stumps are taken down to 4" below surface, covered, and reseeded. In wooded areas the stumps are left to rot.

Randi Simon-Serey suggested that the Tree Committee partner with the Master Gardeners to help and educate each other. She thinks this would benefit both groups. She will send Bob contact information.

Randi Simon-Serey would like Bob or Steve Trostel to talk about the Tree Committee at one of the Master Gardeners' meetings in 2020. She offered to send them information, if they were interested.

ADJOURN

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Steve Trostel, and Randi Simon-Serey seconded the motion.

Minutes prepared by Bob Graeser, Staff Secretary.