

**TREE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
CITY OF PIQUA, OHIO  
Monday June 1, 2020 – 4:00 P.M.  
ZOOM MEETING**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mary Tolman, April Dankworth, and Kris Lee

MEMBERS ABSENT: Steve Trostel, Randi Simon-Serey

GUEST: Wendy Van Buren, and Kyrsten French

STAFF PRESENT: Bob Graeser

**MEETING MINUTES**

Mary Tolman motioned to accept the minutes from the April 2020 meeting. April Dankworth seconded the motion.

**TREE CITY USA**

The Tree City USA Awards Banquet has been canceled for 2020. Bob said he will make sure everyone receives the shirts that Kris bought for the banquet.

**HAZARD TREES**

Hazard tree removals have been postponed as a result of a spending freeze on capital expenditures due to the pandemic. The removals will be reassessed once the funds are released, based on budget and time remaining in the year.

**BARE ROOT TREES**

It is too late in the year to order and plant bare root trees this year. All unnecessary expenditures have been suspended for this year. Planning for next year's planting has started.

**COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**

Bob has received an itemized estimate on removing the trees in the downtown business district. The estimate includes the trees, grates, sidewalks, pavers, curbs and electrical connections that would be affected during removals. The estimate was requested because Kris received complaints about the mess the birds were making around the trees.

Because of the scope of this project will encompass the entire city, the City Manager has requested that we engage a consultant that can properly help the city navigate a fair price for design. Bob would like Kyrsten's input, as City Planner, so we can properly place trees in new locations that will blend well with our long range community development plans.

When Bob mentioned problems with tree grates Wendy suggested using a permeable surface instead of the grates. The product is poured after the tree has been planted. She will send Bob information on the product.

## **TREE PLANTING**

Bob, Kyrsten and Sky are looking for small areas of parks and right of ways in the city where trees can be planted. These trees will help replace the trees that needed to be removed from the levy banks.

As a group they are also working on a plan to plant trees in a two acre space located between Forest Hill Cemetery, Forest Avenue and Hardeman Field. This would expand the tree canopy of Fountain Park.

Kyrsten, Bob and Sky Schelle visited Montgomery Land Bank to see examples of smaller lots that were planted with bare root trees within the last couple of years.

## **CODE PIQUA**

Kyrsten stated that Code Piqua is looking into landscaping standards, a tree preservation ordinance, and a tree canopy requirement for new development. She intends to have a draft of the updates by the end of August or the beginning of September. It will be posted in the internet, and she would like feedback.

## **OTHER INFORMATION**

Wendy said OSU 4H will host a free webinar on effective video conference meetings. The meeting will take place on June 9, 2020 at 10:00 AM. She will send Bob the registration information and he can provide it to anyone interested in attending.

## **ADJOURN**

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Kris Lee, and April Dankworth seconded the motion.

Minutes prepared by Bob Graeser, Staff Secretary.