

BOROUGH OF SEWICKLEY
TREE COMMISSION MINUTES
MONDAY, AUGUST 8, 2011

Vice-Chairperson Kathy Brandt called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Members in attendance were Thadeus Jones, Kelsey Rhea, and Erika Zeranski. Also in attendance were Borough Manager Kevin M. Flannery and Council Representative Bill Cornman. Larry Rice, Chairperson of the Tree Commission, was unable to attend due to vacation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion of Erika Zeranski, seconded by Thadeus Jones, the Tree Commission Minutes of the July 11, 2011 Meeting were approved, 4-0.

OLD BUSINESS

Borough Manager Kevin M. Flannery advised that a listing of all who have donated or purchased a Memorial Tree in the last ten years will be provided at the next Tree Commission Meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

The Borough Arborist Report was reviewed, indicating that pruning would occur at 921 Beaver Street, 600 Blackburn Road, 713 and 715 Centennial Avenue, and at the Sewickley Post Office. In addition, a dead elm tree would be removed on the Borough right-of-way on Farren Street.

The Tree Commission was in agreement for the tree work to be done at 325 Centennial Avenue, 349 Henry Street and at 808 Nevin Avenue.

Mr. Edson reported that he had contacted Eisler's Nursery, indicating that three (3) trees should be replaced.

Mr. Edson indicated that the white oak tree at 4 Gray Lane has not been removed to date; this was due to Duquesne Light not completing the paperwork for the covering of the wires.

Mr. Edson commented on Duquesne Light's tree trimming contractor performing work at 290 Ohio River Blvd. At this location, a hemlock was pruned without the resident's permission. Mr. Edson recommended that the Borough send a letter, indicating that this is a serious breach of the Borough's understanding with Duquesne Light regarding the protocols that are followed in Sewickley. The Tree Commission was in unanimous agreement for the Borough Manager to forward a letter.

The Tree Commission was in agreement with the Borough Arborist's recommendation, as provided in the August 8, 2011 report.

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The Borough Manager also requested that Mr. Edson review the pin oaks on Route 65 to see if a total treatment is necessary. Borough Manager also indicated that the Tree Commission probably should take a walk-through of the pin oaks with Mr. Edson to see if there is a failure of these trees. It is very expensive to have the trees removed, and proper maintenance should be performed in order to save the trees.

On motion of Kelsey Rhea, seconded by Thadeus Jones, the Borough of Sewickley Tree Commission recommended to Council a list of permanent street tree varieties. Upon adoption of the Borough of Sewickley ordinance, a resolution can be prepared to establish the street tree variety list.

On motion of Erika Zeranski, seconded by Kelsey Rhea, the Tree Commission voted, 4-0, to not have a meeting on September 12, 2011 due to the fact that the majority of members would not be able to attend, and that the Tree Commission will be subject to the call of the Chair, if needed.

Thadeus Jones asked if the pin oak on the private property at the Car Store, near the turning lane off of the Sewickley Bridge, can be reviewed.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Erika Zeranski, seconded by Kelsey Rhea, the Tree Commission voted, 4-0, to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin M. Flannery
Acting Secretary