

**BOROUGH OF SEWICKLEY
TREE COMMISSION MINUTES
MONDAY, JULY 9, 2012**

Chairperson Larry Rice called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Members in attendance were Kathy Brandt and Thad Jones. Erika Zeranski was absent for personal reasons. Also in attendance were Borough Arborist Jim Edson, and Borough Manager Kevin M. Flannery.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion of Kathy Brandt, seconded by Thad Jones, the Minutes of the June 11, 2012 Tree Commission Meeting were approved, 3-0.

OLD BUSINESS

The Tree Commission reviewed the four bids for the Peebles Street Tree Removal Project. The low bidder is Carl's Tree Service and Landscaping of West Mifflin, Pa. with a bid of \$13,500 for the tree and stump removal. Sewickley Borough Council scheduled to take action at the July 10 Committee of the Whole meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Borough Arborist Jim Edson reviewed the Arborist's Report, highlighting tree pruning at 716 Beaver Street, resident requests for tree removals, suggested safety pruning and treatment of ashes on Thorn Street with root flare injections.

Mr. Edson recommended that the trees at 63 Thorn Street and 228 Frederick Avenue could be removed conditioned on the tree service obtaining a Borough of Sewickley Tree License and agreeing to a replacement tree.

Mr. Edson commented that for 35 Linden Place a landscape plan needs to be submitted and reviewed by the Tree Commission. Borough Manager to forward letter to property owner and developer.

Mr. Edson also recommended tree trimming for 830 Nevin Avenue, 723 Maple Lane, Ferry Street overpass to Edgeworth and 310 Henry Avenue. The trimming will be done this fall.

On motion of Kathy Brandt, seconded by Larry Rice, the Tree Commission approved the Borough Arborist's Report, 3-0.

Mr. Jones indicated that the pin oak on the river side of Ohio River Boulevard by the Sewickley Community Center is showing signs of oak wilt root rot and should be checked. Borough Arborist to review and advise.

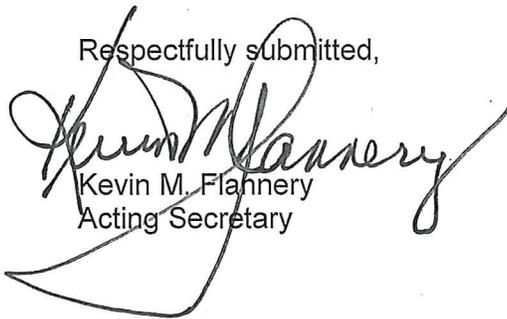
On motion of Thad Jones, seconded by Larry Rice, the Tree Commission voted, 3-0, to cancel the August Tree Commission meeting subject to the call of the Chair.

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ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Thad Jones, seconded by Kathy Brandt, the Tree Commission Meeting was adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kevin M. Flannery
Acting Secretary

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Arborist's Report

July 9, 2012

General Tree Work:

Tree pruning:

- **716 Beaver Street:** Prune London Planetree to remove dead and dying branches for safety. Provide clearance for structure at that location, removing lower hanging branches to direct growth away from the roof and sides of house.

Resident request(s) for Tree Removal Permit:

63 Thorn Street: resident requests a permit to remove a Pin Oak at the front of the property. The tree is infested with obscure scale, that is treatable, however the tree is somewhat disfigured from utility pruning. The owner plans to replant so the permit should be granted with the owner's verification that they will replant and that they will use a licensed contractor to perform the work. The contractor on the permit request is not licensed and has repeatedly performed work on hazard zone trees without a license and often a permit.

35 Linden Place: this is a building lot and several trees must be removed to proceed with construction. The property faces Linden Place and is bordered by alleys on two sides, so most trees on the property are within the hazard zone and fall under our ordinance. This request should not even be considered until we have a landscape plan or assurances of replanting. The contractor listed in the request is not a licensed contractor. The contractor listed has worked in the borough repeatedly on trees within the hazard zone without acquiring the license required by our ordinance.

228 Frederick Avenue: property owner has requested a permit to remove the dying Ash at the right front of the property. This permit should be with contingent on the owner providing the name of the licensed arborist who will perform the work and replanting within one year by the Spring of 2013.

Observations and requests for work on Borough trees:

- **830 Nevin Avenue** – resident reported a dead tree in the small Parklet at the intersection of Crescent and Nevin. There is a dead Spruce that should be removed as well as some pruning that should be done to the remaining 2 Spruces to provide clearance for the structure at 830 Nevin Avenue.
- **723 Maple Lane** – resident called to report a branch had fallen and her concerns about branches interfering with her electric service. The borough's crew removed the branch. I visited the property owner and agree that some pruning should be done to improve clearances over her electric lines and the street.
- **Ohio River Boulevard** – a branch has fallen along Ohio River Boulevard and taken a wire down servicing the streetlights from approximately the Ferry street overpass north towards Edgeworth. Duquesne Light cannot put this wire back in service until some trees in that area have been pruned. They have determined that this is the borough's responsibility and have said that the trees from Walnut to the borough line need to be

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pruned back to maintain the electric service for these lights. The immediate need is pruning the trees where the wire is down so they can restore service. The trees in the impacted area are not Oaks and it will be safe to proceed in the next few weeks. In the fall we can prepare specifications for pruning and small removals and put this out for bid in the late fall or winter.

- **301 Grant Street** – a large branch from a Norway Maple on the Linden Place side of this property failed and damaged the fence and a window on this property. The homeowner took care of the repairs. The Maple is declining and we should consider removing it this winter and replacing it in the spring of 2013. In the interim we will remove any hazardous deadwood or defective branches.
- **136 Centennial:** A Horsechestnut at this address on the borough right of way was declining rapidly and will need to be removed this winter with our winter removal program. It is the tree at the far right front of this property adjacent to the driveway.
- **310 Henry:** The resident reported that a large branch fell from the Oak on the right of way in front of his house. The tree has other dead branches and should be pruned for safety this fall when it is safe to prune Oaks.

Spring Planting:

- Out plantings need to be watered due to the severe drought conditions. The borough crew is planning to take care of this. I will follow up with them to see where they are on this.

Arborist's Comments:

- On two applications submitted this month for tree removal permits, the contractors have not been licensed by the borough. I feel strongly that we need to require licensed contractors. As far as I know Bartlett is the only licensed contractor. When/if we put out the contract to do the removals on Peebles we will have a second licensed contractor. We will never expand the pool of contractors if we continue to grant permits for removals without requiring the applicant to name a licensed contractor. The requirements for this credential are minimal and those who refuse to become licensed are likely not fully insured and should not be working on our streets.
- Several Ashes on Thorn Street are showing signs of EAB infestation and should be treated by root flare injection this summer. They have been treated by soil injection and it appears the pressure from this insect is too great. The root flare injections will suppress the insect in trees with up to 50% crown loss. A credit for the soil injections this spring will be applied to the cost of trees we treat by root flare injection.

Respectfully submitted,

James P. Edson, Jr.
ISA Certified Arborist, PD-0022