

BOROUGH OF SEWICKLEY
TREE COMMISSION MINUTES
MONDAY, MARCH 12, 2012

Chairperson Larry Rice called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Members in attendance were Kathy Brandt, Thad Jones, Kelsey Rhea and Erika Zeranski. Also in attendance were Council Representative Bill Cornman, 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 February 13, 2012 Tree Commission Meeting were approved, 4-0-1. Kelsey Rhea abstained as she was not in attendance for the February 13th meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

The Tree Commission reviewed the Nevin Avenue Tree Removal quotes for services, the removal of approximately 19 London Plane Trees. Taylor Tree Service submitted a quote of \$19,220.00. Carl's Tree Service, of West Mifflin, submitted a quote of \$25,700.00, and Adler Tree Service submitted a quote of \$28,200.00. Borough Manager indicated that in discussion with Borough Arborist Jim Edson, the recommendation was made to forward the Taylor Tree Service quote of \$19,220.00 to Borough Council.

NEW BUSINESS

Borough Arborist Jim Edson reviewed the Arborist's Report, highlighting eight (8) tree removals and tree pruning at 315 Chestnut Street.

Mr. Edson indicated that he had spoke with Frank Zappala at The Village at Sweetwater, the residential project on Peebles Street, with the request to consider the pruning of oak trees overhanging the construction site. Mr. Edson indicated that the plan was to remove at least two of the trees this year, and possibly a third tree, due to root rot fungi.

Mr. Edson further indicated that Mr. Zappala checked with the people who purchased the new units, stating that the oak trees had nothing to do with their decision to purchase a unit. Mr. Edson, therefore, was recommending getting bids for the removal of all of the pin oaks this year so that replanting can occur in the fall of 2012 or spring of 2013.

Mr. Edson also outlined plant healthcare recommendations for the next month, including treatment of the emerald ash bore, fire blight, bronze birch bore and soil treatment applications in Wolcott Park.

On motion of Kathy Brandt, seconded by Erika Zeranski, the Tree Commission voted, 5-0, to accept and approve the Borough Arborist's report.

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Mr. Edson presented the 2012 Spring Planting List that included thirty-nine (39) trees to be planted. On motion of Kelsey Rhea, seconded by Kathy Brandt, the Tree Commission voted, 5-0, to accept and approve the 2012 Spring Planting List.

Mr. Edson indicated that he has made a decision to stay on as the Borough Arborist and to remove Bartlett Tree Service from participating in large tree removals and large pruning programs in Sewickley that are planned each year for winter and spring. Mr. Edson and Borough Manager Kevin M. Flannery are preparing a job description for the Borough Arborist that will basically specify that the Arborist will handle emergency tree removals and storm related pruning, plant health care, young tree pruning for development of good branch structure, spring planting, fall planting and other consultation services.

Borough Manager indicated that if this was acceptable to the Tree Commission, then a formal job description would be presented to the Tree Commission in order that it can be reviewed and forwarded to Sewickley Borough Council for approval. The Tree Commission was in agreement to proceed and to have a job description prepared for next month's meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Kelsey Rhea, seconded by Thad Jones, the Tree Commission Meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin M. Flannery
Acting Secretary