

BOROUGH OF SEWICKLEY
TREE COMMISSION MINUTES
MONDAY, JULY 8, 2013

Chairperson Larry Rice called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Members in attendance were Kathy Brandt, Cindy Mullins, Thad Jones and Michelle Denk. Also in attendance were Council Representative Bill Cornman, Borough Arborist Jim Edson, and Borough Manager Kevin M. Flannery.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion of Cindy Mullins, seconded by Kathy Brandt, the Tree Commission Minutes of the June 10, 2013 were approved, as presented.

Chairperson Larry Rice welcomed Michelle Denk to the Commission.

OLD BUSINESS

Borough Arborist Jim Edson reported that the Duquesne Light utility pruning has gone well in the Borough. He has not received any calls or complaints.

Borough Manager advised that Mr. Nikel of the Sewickley Car Store did meet with the Borough Manager to address the deficient completion of trees to be planted per the approval. A revised plan will be submitted by the Sewickley Car Store.

NEW BUSINESS

The Borough Arborist, Jim Edson, reviewed the Arborist's Report highlighting tree work on Beaver Street and Peebles Street and the planting of a Black Gum at 402 Peebles Street.

Mr. Edson reviewed request for removals as listed:

- 8 spruces from 613 Centennial Avenue
- Dead Sugar Maple at 347 Bank Street
- Ash at 329 Ferry Street
- Red Maple at 711 Thorn Street
- Serviceberry and Yellowwood at 241 Walnut Street and Frederick

Mr. Edson stated that he and the Borough Manager reviewed the sidewalk replacements for Bank Street in conjunction with the Columbia Gas project. Columbia Gas is working with the Borough and will work to protect existing trees. One tree will be replaced by Columbia Gas.

Mr. Edson reviewed a preliminary list for removals and pruning for the fall or winter bid process.

On motion of Thad Jones, seconded by Cindy Mullins, the Tree Commission voted, 5-0, to approve the Arborist's Report.

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On motion of Thad Jones, seconded by Kathy Brandt, the Tree Commission, voted, 5-0, to cancel the August 12, 2013 Tree Commission subject to the call of the Chairperson.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Cindy Mullins, seconded by Kathy Brandt, the Tree Commission Meeting was adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin M. Flannery
Acting Secretary

Borough of Sewickley Tree Commission

Arborist's Report

July 8, 2013

General Tree Work completed in June:

- 532 Beaver Street – pollard London Planetrees
- 716 Beaver Street – remove London Planetree (disfigured from utility pruning)
- 402 Peebles – Prune Ash to provide clearance from structure

Planting in June:

- 402 Peebles – a Black Gum from the 2012 planting was replaced.

Resident requests for Tree Removal Permits:

- 613 Centennial – resident is requesting permission to remove 8 Spruces. This should be permitted. All the trees in question are overgrown and in poor condition. The species selection is inappropriate for the small space they had to grow. Of course the permit is conditional on appropriate landscaping of the property.
- 347 Bank Street – resident is requesting a permit to remove a dead Sugar Maple on the Walnut Street side of her property. Permit should be granted with replanting.

Resident requests for Work on Borough Trees or Sidewalk repairs:

- 329 Ferry – there is an infested Ash on a right of way behind this property that should be removed if it is in fact on a right of way. The location of the right of way needs to be verified.
- 345 Walnut – sidewalk versus Yellowwood - the tree in question is one of the nicest Yellowwoods on the street. It does not interfere with any primary or secondary power lines. The sidewalk adjacent to the tree will be replaced by Columbia Gas as part of their project in this area. The borough is working with the gas company and we will be able to provide a cut out for the new sidewalk to allow for growth in the future.
- 711 Thorn Street – the resident is requesting that the Red Maple on the right of way be removed because it is raising the sidewalk and is disfigured from utility pruning. This is a large growing species that is planted on an inappropriate site. In the early years of the tree commission we were bullied into planting large trees on several inappropriate sites by an activist who assured us she the utilities would be moved underground. I recommend removing the tree and replanting a more compatible species for the site.
- 241 Walnut Street and Frederick – property manager reported a dead tree on Frederick and 2 trees on Walnut in need of pruning or removal. The tree on Frederick is a Serviceberry and is dead. On Walnut the Yellowwood nearest Frederick should be pruned and the tree towards Elwick should be removed. These trees will be added to the list for fall removals and pruning.

Columbia Gas:

I have been working with Columbia Gas as they are installing new pipelines in the Bank and Walnut Street areas. Their program is very tree friendly and they have taken appropriate precautions whenever they can. On Walnut they changed their plans from trenching along the sidewalks to boring to protect the tree roots.

- Bank Street – the lines are in and service to most properties has been restored. We met today to review replacement of sidewalks. I will be reviewing all sections of sidewalk that have conflicts with trees to modify the designs and prune roots if necessary. They will be addressing sidewalk issues on several trees that would likely have been our problem in the next few years.

- Tree issues: on Bank Street there are 2 trees that may have been impacted by the line replacements. I pointed these trees out to them a few weeks ago and we have agreed to revisit these sites and agree on appropriate action for replacement or pruning at the end of the project.
 - 344 Bank Street – the Kousa Dogwood died at this location shortly after they bored in that area. They have agreed to replacement.
 - 230 Bank Street – the Bald Cypress at this location had moderate dieback close to the time they worked in this area.

Arborist recommendations:

- Linden Place Apartments – there is a large Sycamore at the entrance off Grant Street (near Ferry Street) that is declining and should be removed as it is becoming hazardous and threatens the street. I have alerted Nancy Watts that she should send them a letter.

This month I surveyed the Frederick and Henry Avenues and will add the following to the next bids

- Removals for fall or next bid:
 - 302 Beaver – Sycamore (site S-2 on Little)
 - Frederick (Laughlin Center) – Yellowwood (site 3)
 - 312 Frederick – young Bur Oak (site 1)
 - Frederick (Triumph Baptist Church) – 3 young Corylus (sites 1, 2 and 3)
 - 305 Henry – young Maple (site 1)
 - 324 Henry – young Hornbeams (sites 1 and 2) tree at site one may have been damaged by boring equipment
 - 241 Walnut Street – Serviceberry (on Frederick) and Yellowwood (site 1 on Walnut)
 - 302 Beaver
- Pruning for fall or next bid:
 - 302 Beaver – Silver Maple (site S-4 on Little Street) crown clean
 - 343 Frederick – Sugar Maple (site 1) crown reduction and cleaning
 - 202 Frederick – Norway Maple (site 1) crown clean
 - 244 Frederick – Red Maple (site S-3 on Little) crown clean
 - 302 Henry – London Planetree (site S-4 on Little)
 - 241 Walnut – Yellowwood (site 2 on Walnut)

Fall Planting:

- Several young trees have failed from earlier plantings, so I plan to gear the fall planting toward replacement of these plants. The removal of the trees can be handled by the borough when we replant.

Respectfully submitted,

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