

BOROUGH OF SEWICKLEY
TREE COMMISSION MINUTES
MONDAY, JULY 14, 2014

Chairperson Kathy Brandt called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Members in attendance were Kathy Brandt, Michelle Denk, Jim Edson and Larry Rice. Also in attendance was Council Representative Bill Cornman. Lori Cirilano and Cindy Mullins were unable to attend due to vacation. Borough Manager Kevin Flannery was unable to attend due to another meeting. Sewickley Bookkeeper Diane Vierling was in attendance to take Minutes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion of Michelle Denk, seconded by Larry Rice, the Tree Commission Minutes of the June 9, 2014 Meeting were approved, 5 - 0.

OLD BUSINESS

The Tree Commission reviewed the monthly Activity Sheet. The Presbyterian Church work will not be completed until next year. Mr. Edson reported that everything else has been completed and should be removed from the Activity Sheet.

On motion of Kathy Brandt, seconded by Larry Rice, the Tree Commission voted 5 – 0 to have Kevin Flannery draft a letter on behalf of the Tree Commission, to Adam Randall, the resident at 220 Graham Street, reminding him that he needs to replace the trees that he removed last year.

NEW BUSINESS

Borough Arborist Jim Edson presented the Arborist's Report. He reviewed the emergency removal of a large Pin Oak at 804 Ohio River Boulevard. Damage to the tree occurred when workers of the Sewickley Water Authority cut into the root flame, while installing a shut-off valve. It took over five hours to remove the tree. If the tree had not been removed it would have fallen onto four lanes of traffic. Larry Rice asked who is responsible for the expense of removing the tree. In a letter dated July 7, 2014, Kevin Flannery requested that the Sewickley Water Authority contact Jim Edson directly whenever any trees or tree roots are involved with their work. Jim Edson will then be able to review the situation and provide expert guidance.

During discussion about requests for action on Borough trees, the Tree Commission was in agreement that input from Council was needed regarding Cochran Hose Company's request for removal of the Ash tree by the fire station. Kevin Flannery would be asked to present this to the Committee of the Whole, as a topic for discussion, at tomorrow's meeting.

The tree at the YMCA at the corner of Backbone and Blackburn Roads is dead. Kathy Brandt stated it is a Borough tree and the Borough should be responsible for replacing it.

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Jim Edson suggested an Elm tree. The Tree Commission was in agreement that as a condition of approval for removal of the tree, the Borough will be responsible for replanting.

On motion of Larry Rice, seconded by Michelle Denk, the Tree Commission voted, 5 – 0, to approve the Arborist's Report as presented, with the stipulation that Kevin Flannery would consult the Committee of the Whole regarding Cochran Hose Company's request for removal of the Ash tree by the fire station.

The Tree Commission also agreed that Kevin Flannery should send a letter to the YMCA stating that the Borough would remove the dead tree and the Borough would be responsible for selecting and planting the replacement.

Kathy Brandt stated that it is traditional to not hold a Tree Commission meeting in August.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Larry Rice, seconded by Michelle Denk, the Tree Commission adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Vierling