

**MINUTES OF THE TREE COMMISSION
OF
THE BOROUGH OF SEWICKLEY
JANUARY 11, 2016 AT 7:00 P.M.**

The meeting of the Sewickley Borough Tree Commission was held on Monday, January 12, 2016. Chair Kathy Brandt called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Sewickley Borough offices, 601 Thorn Street, Sewickley, PA 15143

Those in attendance were:

Members:

Kathy Brandt
Larry Rice
Lori Capone Cirilano
Michelle Denk

Of Counsel:

Councilman Bill Cornman
Borough Manager Kevin M. Flannery
Borough Arborist Jim Edson

Cindy Mullins was absent due to vacation.

Guests: Paul C. Fuener

I. Approval of minutes of November 9, 2015 Meeting

The Minutes of the November 9, 2015 meeting were unanimously approved.

II. Old business

Activity Sheet: Members reviewed the Activity Sheet of January 5, 2011 noting that item Nos. 1,2,5, 6, and 8 are complete and will be removed from the list. A meeting is scheduled on February 2nd to address street work to begin on the upper part of Broad Street. It is intended that notice of the meeting will be issued to everyone on the Broad Street block.

III. New Business

Ordinance: The Shade Tree Commission reviewed Solicitor Tucker's amendments to the Ordinance. Upon motion of Larry Rice, seconded by Lori Cirilano, the Tree Commission voted, 4-0, to accept the ordinance as proposed and forward it to council for approval.

It was noted that significant progress was made on the new ordinance in the areas of apportionment of cost of sidewalk repairs (§108(4)), notices (§109) and appeal procedure (§116.)

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Breadth and Scope of the Tree Commission:

It was noted that the Borough of Sewickley, which measures an area of 1.2 sq. miles, has planted 1,600 trees in the last twenty years within its public rights-of-way. Furthermore, there are over 5,000 public trees in the Borough of Sewickley.

Arborist's Report:

The Tree Commission reviewed the Arborist Report of January 11, 2016 as presented by James Edson, Jr. The Commission approved permit requests for tree removal at 719 Harbaugh and 307 Peebles, with cost to be born by the property owner. The Commission approved removal and replacement of two trees at 417 Walnut Street with cost to be born by the property owner. On motion of Larry Rice, seconded by Michelle Denk, the Tree Commission voted, 4-0, to approve the Borough Arborist's Report.

Linden Place Cooperative Building: The Tree Commission voted, 4-0, to not approve the request for removal of a tree located at the service entrance to the building on Ohio River Blvd.

The Borough Council re-appointed Lori Cirilano to a five-year term on the Tree Commission.

Larry Rice formally submitted his resignation from the Tree Commission, effective upon the swearing in of his replacement. He offered to help if the Tree Commission should need him in the future. Chairperson Kathy Brandt and the members of the Tree Commission stated their heartfelt thanks to Larry for his superior advice and many years of service on the Tree Commission.

IV. Next Meeting – Monday, February 8, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

With no other business before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Capone Cirilano
Secretary

Borough of Sewickley Tree Commission

Arborist's Report

January 11, 2016

General Tree Work completed:

- **528 Cochran** – remove 4 Turkish Filberts and grind stumps for Fall Planting
- **816 Thorn** – Honeylocust removal for sidewalk repairs and remove deadwood in Sugar Maple for safety

Requests for Tree Removal Permit:

- **719 Harbaugh** – removal of a large Pin Oak that is heaving the sidewalk on Peebles. Removal is recommended with replanting of an ornamental or shade tree.
- **307 Peebles** – removal of a large Norway Maple (in the hazard zone) on the left side of the house. Removal is recommended with replanting of an ornamental or shade tree.

Requests for action on borough trees:

- **716 Nevin** – resident requests action on Flowering Pear due to fruit vs. car issues – removal and replanting in the spring is recommended.
- **417 Walnut** - property owner requests removal of 2 Red Maples. Removal is recommended with replanting of Red Maples to match the plantings installed after the Walnut Street Road project. (Red Sunset Maples 3-4" caliper)

2015 Fall Planting:

Plantings are complete with the exception of 417 Centennial. At this location the excavation for the new tree ruptured a gas line. The tree is being stored at the site on Glen Mitchell Road until spring when we hope to find a safe place to plant it at that location. With a regrind of the stump from the tree that was removed we should be able to plant at that location.

Winter Pruning Recommendations:

- **604 Academy** – 2 Pin Oaks
- **630 Academy** – 2 Pin Oaks (sites 1&2)
- **2 Beaver** – London Planetree
- **234 Beaver (Maria's)** – London Planetree
- **819 Beaver** – 2 London Planetrees on Nevin
- **963 Beaver** – Pin Oak on Boundary
- **7 Centennial** – 4 Oaks on Academy Avenue
- **231 Chestnut** – Pin Oak
- **505 Grove** – London Planetree on Beaver
- **Ohio River Blvd** – (Walnut Street to Edgeworth border – east side) 18 Oaks, 1 Black Locust and various small trees to improve light penetration for street lights
- **320 Peebles** – 3 Scarlet Oaks
- **871 Thorn** – Pin Oak
- **601 Thorn (Borough Building)** – London Planetree in front.

Winter Tree Removals:

- **302 Beaver** –Maple and Sycamore on Little. (*We could consider removal of the middle tree at this location – it is a Silver Maple!*)
- **721 Beaver** – London Planetree damaged in June storm
- **819 Beaver** –Maple on Beaver closest to Nevin
- **963 Beaver** – 2 tagged London Planetrees. (*There is a third tree at in this group that we might consider removing at the same time.*)
- **903 Centennial** – Pear and London Planetree on the Nevin right of way
- **920 Centennial** - tagged Maple on Boundary at the corner. This tree has large areas of decay in the main leader and the large branch over the street. Failure is imminent.
- **509 Grove** – declining Yellowwood
- **230 Thorn Street** – tagged Zelkova this tree is co-dominant and splitting apart.

Wolcott Park:

I have provided a proposal for pruning of most trees and shrubs in the park, and removal of a few small trees. These recommendations are based on needs observed when I met with representatives of the Trowel and Error Garden Club. This group has maintained the annual flowers and bulbs.

Broad Street:

Without a good understanding of the scope of the work to be done this year on Broad Street, I have surveyed the trees on the street. There are several trees that should be removed if the scope of the work is similar to Centennial Avenue. Here are a few of my thoughts:

- 400 block – selected Oaks that are declining should be removed entirely.
- 500 block – all Honeylocusts (9 trees) should be removed – additional planting pockets should be created to improve the overall symmetry of the planting.
- 600 block – 3 large Oaks (at 608, 612 and 616) should be removed and replaced with trees more compatible with the overhead utilities. Maples on the other side of the street at 607 and 617 should be considered for removal because of the narrow planting strip and lack of soil volume. All new plantings should be with small to medium species.

Arborist Comments:

- This year I plan to have my crew focus on structural pruning of young trees. Over the winter we will be working on Elms and young Oaks. The primary goal is to establish strong leaders, eliminate poor branch union that cause branch failures and remove lower branches to improve clearance over the street. This is long overdue for many trees in the borough – particularly the Elms.

Respectfully submitted,

James P. Edson, Jr.
Sewickley Borough Arborist

Encl.
Ohio River Boulevard pruning bid specs.
Wolcott Park proposal