

**MINUTES OF THE TREE COMMISSION
OF
THE BOROUGH OF SEWICKLEY
FEBRUARY 8, 2016 AT 7:00 P.M.**

The meeting of the Sewickley Borough Tree Commission was held on Monday, February 8, 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
Cindy Mullins
Lori Capone Cirilano
Michelle Denk
Paul C. Fuener

Of Counsel:

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

I. Approval of Minutes of January 11, 2016 Meeting

On motion of Ms. Denk, seconded by Mrs. Brandt, the minutes were approved with corrected spelling by a vote of 4-0-1, with Mr. Fuener abstaining as he was not a member of the Commission at the time.

II. Old business

On motion of Ms. Denk, seconded by Mrs. Brandt, the Tree Commission voted, 5-0, to elect Cindy Mullins as Vice Chairperson.

The Tree Commission reviewed the Tree Activity Sheet for the month.

The Borough Manager reviewed the advertisement for the new Shade Tree Commission Ordinance which is scheduled for adoption on Monday, February 15, 2016 Sewickley Borough Council.

The Tree Commission reviewed the Bid Tabulation Sheets for the three removal and pruning projects. On motion of Mrs. Cirilano, seconded by Mrs. Mullins, the Tree Commission voted, 5-0, to approve the awarding of bids: for Contract No. 2016-TC-001, Tree Pruning Project to Tall Timber Tree Experts in the amount of \$1,810; for Contract No. 2016-TC-002, Tree Removal Project to Carl's Tree Service in the amount of \$6,950 and for Contract No. 2016-TC-003, Borough Oak Pruning Project to Carl's Tree Service in the amount of \$10,375.

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III. New Business

Arborist's Report:

The Tree Commission reviewed the Arborist Report of February 8, 2016 as presented by James Edson, Jr. The Commission approved permit request for tree removal at 240 Academy Avenue with recommendation of replanting. Mr. Edson also presented his 2016 Maintenance Recommendations for Borough properties. On motion of Cindy Mullins, seconded by Michelle Denk, the Tree Commission voted, 5-0, to approve the Borough Arborist's Report.

Borough Arborist invited members of the Commission to forward planting recommendations for next month's meeting for approval. Borough Manager reminded everyone that the revisions to the Shade Tree Commission will require the Borough to have two separate advertisements and public notifications of the plantings.

Borough Manager reviewed list of five Class A Tree Renewal licenses that have reapplied for 2016.

The Tree Commission was in agreement with the Tree Brochure for 2016.

The Tree Commission was in agreement to participate in the May Mart on May 7, 2016.

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

With no other business before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin M. Flannery

Borough of Sewickley Tree Commission

Arborist's Report

February 8, 2016

General Tree Work completed:

- **535 Chadwick Street:** emergency removal of failing Linden
- **301 Grant:** remove main stem from Linden dismantled by utility crew.
- **Broad Street (200 and 300 blocks), Riverfront Park, Sewickley Community Center right of way:** structural pruning of Elms (in dormancy)
- **Maple Lane Park:** raise crowns on Oaks along fence line to enhance views and improve clearance for the parks.
- **Maple Lane:** structural pruning of young Maples

Requests for Tree Removal Permit:

- **240 Academy Avenue:** permit requested for removal of a large Hemlock at the left front of the property. The tree is dying from the top down. The tree has lost approximately 50% of its foliage. Removal is recommended with replacement.

Requests for action on borough trees:

- None for January

2016 Spring Planting: Planting plan for will be prepared for the March meeting. Please provide suggestions from your observations. We will be replacing trees to be removed.

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Winter Pruning and Removal Programs: the contracts have been awarded. Work on the removals will begin tomorrow. We will be adding Pears at 316 Frederick and 716 Nevin to the removal program to honor resident requests that have been approved. Replacements will be installed with the Spring 2016 planting.

Wolcott Park: The pruning program approved last month has been completed. Trowel and Error funded \$1000.00 of the cost.

Broad Street: the meeting last week went well. The group generally approved of removing the trees listed below.

- 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 will be with small to medium species in planting pits with a minimum of 30 square feet (10x3').
- Additional planting pits will be added in the 500 block to improve symmetry of the plantings and fill voids.

Arborist Comments/Recommendations:

- We will continue the young tree pruning program focusing on Elms and Oaks in the dormant season. There are several locations still to do.
- The 2016 Maintenance Recommendations for pest management and soil care are detailed in the enclosed spread sheet. The majority of the treatments outlined are recommended on a regular basis annually or biannually. Treatments targeting special needs that are new to the programs this year include:
 - Root invigoration for the American Holly group in Park Place to help lower pH and improve soil fertility and texture
 - Root collar excavations for several key plants in Park Place where excessive mulch has accumulated around the stems.
 - Root invigoration for the memorial Hawthorn in Riverfront Park to improve the water holding capacity and soil structure for this struggling plant
 - Growth regulator treatment for the Hornbeams and Lindens at the Sewage treatment plant to extend the pruning cycle and improve resistance to environmental stresses.

Respectfully submitted,

James P. Edson, Jr.
Sewickley Borough Arborist

Enclosure:
2016 Maintenance Recommendations