MINUTES OF THE SHADE TREE COMMISSIONOF THE BOROUGH OF SEWICKLEY

JUNE 13, 2016 AT 7:00 P.M.

The meeting of the Sewickley Borough Tree Commission was held on Monday, June 13, 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
Lori Capone Cirilano
Michelle Denk
Paul C. Fuener
Cindy Mullins

Of Counsel:
Borough Manager Kevin M. Flannery
Borough Arborist Jim Edson

Guests:
Pam Gaynor
Nancy Rostek
Hedwig Marwaha
Laurie Huckestein

I. Attendee's Self Introductions
Those in attendance briefly introduced themselves to the group.

II. Approval of Minutes of February 8, 2016 Meeting
The Minutes of the April 11, 2016 meeting were unanimously approved.

III. Old business
Tree Recommendation Activity Sheet: Members reviewed the Activity Sheet dated June 13, 2016, which was approved unanimously with the following amendments:

Item # 1. 302 Beaver Street, is on the real estate market so planting and removal is on hold until the property is sold to determine whether there will be lot modifications.

The following Items are complete.

6. Sewickley Public Library – 500 Thorn Street,

8. Munizza – 201 Bank Street,

14. Kaminikar – 716 Nevin Avenue, and

16. One Walnut – 417 Walnut Street.

Item # 15. Broad Street. Guest Pam Gaynor questioned whether Notice concerning the tree removals on Broad Street was effective. She suggested that Notice include a poster placed on every tree that is slated to be removed in the Borough.

The Recommendation Activity Sheet June 13, 2016 is attached hereto and incorporated herein.

Guests and members commented as follows:

Resident Pam Gaynor discussed her desire to save every large tree possible. She would like to see community engagement about "big" trees. She also suggested that the removal and replacement of trees in the borough be staggered so that all trees on a street are not new and small at the same time.

Resident Laurie Huckstein commented as to whether it could have been possible to stack the replanting so the whole street is not depleted of trees at the same time.

The Borough Arborist explained that the only time all trees on a block are removed is when it is necessary due to road and sidewalk reconstruction. He stated that it is the Borough practice to remove and replace in a staggered manner whenever possible. For example 60 trees in the Spring Planting went to fill voids or replace trees removed (for heath and safety reasons) over the fall and winter.

Little Street: Cindy Mullins pointed out that four of the remaining London Plane trees on Little Street appear to be dying.

Borough Manager affirmed Sewickley Borough's commitment to replace each tree removed if possible – given line of sight and hydrant restrictions.

IV. New Business

Arborist's Report: The Tree Commission reviewed the Arborist Report of June 13, 2016 as presented by James Edson, Jr.

Requests for Tree Removal Permit: Tree Commission follows Arborist's recommendations but for the following item:

858 Thorn Street: permit approval was granted (by vote of 4-1) for resident to remove the large Pin Oak on left of driveway to allow for installation of a paved driveway. In this instance, replanting is not required, as the resident has planted many trees on her property.

Also it has been noted that the property owner of the Sewickley Manor has removed several trees without permit and this matter should be researched and addressed.

Corrections/comments to Report on page 2:
Removals:
Removals were put out to bid. Trees will be replaced.

Pruning:
Beaver Street - add 945 Crescent as an emergency prune.
Little Street: replace 315 Beaver with 315 Thorn Street.

On motion of Michelle Denk, seconded by Paul Fuener, the Tree Commission voted 5-0 to approve the Borough Arborist's Report with the amendments noted above. The Arborist's Report of June 13, 2016 is attached hereto and incorporated herein.

May Mart: The Tree Commission hosted a table at May Mart on May 7. Bartlett Tree donated tree seedlings (Dogwood, American Beech and Persimmon) and a beautiful Yellow Magnolia tree. The seedlings were given away to passersby and the Magnolia was raffled off. The raffle brought in $165.00. The winner was David Murray of Sewickley.

Broad Street road project: Jim Edson selected 12 trees for planting on the 500 block. These may be planted late August to early September. Planting of the 600 block is scheduled for Fall.

Resident Hedwig Marwha requested information on how green space would be integrated around the new Theatre building on Walnut Street and the new building on Thorn known as One Theatre Square.

V. Next Meeting – Monday, July 11, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

With no other business before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 8:37 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Capone Cirilano
Secretary

Borough of Sewickley Tree Commission

Arborist's Report

6/13/2016

Tree Work completed:

- **Broad Street** – Removals for street improvements 8 – Honey locusts in 500 block, 2 Maples in 600 Block, Oaks
- **Grove Street Ext.** – emergency removal of a failing Norway Maple
- **Cochran Street** – crown raising for street sweeper (partially completed)

Requests for Tree Removal Permit:

- **904 Centennial** – dying Hemlock along the side of the property adjacent to Cochran Street. Removal is recommended with replanting of an understory tree
- **Frederick and Walnut (Christie House)** – large declining Sugar Maple on the side of the property adjacent to Walnut. This tree is in irreversible decline. Removal is recommended with replacement planting of a large growing shade tree
- **Hoey's Run** – there are 3 Norway Maples and a group of volunteer Cherry, Ash and Maples that are in the Hazard zone. They will be removing approximately a Hemlock and a False Cypress on the interior of the property that are nice trees. All others are volunteers of no value to the landscape. Removals are recommended with replacement of at least 5 trees that would add to the streetscape.
- **234 Melville Lane** – dead Mulberry – permit is recommended. Replanting is not needed as this tree is a volunteer growing under a Maple that will remain
- **Sewickley YMCA** – 6 dead or dying trees: 2 Golden Rain and 1 Maple along Blackburn, and 3 Hawthorns along Backbone. A permit is recommended with replanting
- **858 Thorn** – large Pin Oak with root flares growing into the driveway. It is hard to recommend a permit for this one as there is a matching tree on the other side of the property. Damage from a new driveway would endanger the health and stability of the tree. A permit is recommended with replanting

Requests for action on borough trees:

- **215 Chestnut** – Autumn Blaze Maple on the borough right of way. The resident is requesting removal to prevent damage to their sidewalk and wall. This is not recommended – there is no apparent damage to the wall. There is an area of the sidewalk that is heaving. The location of this issue is far enough away from the tree that I do not believe it is the cause. We can consider root pruning along the edge of the sidewalk to 12 inches below grade, as this is a young tree.
- **311 Chestnut** – Pin Oak on the borough right of way. The resident has requested removal for sidewalk issues. This is a landmark tree on this street. Removal is not recommended. We cah provide root pruning when they fix the sidewalk.

2016 Spring Planting:

We have managed to plant over 60 trees this spring. It turns out that my hope of planting 2 trees in Beaver adjacent to Safran's is not feasible. The sidewalks in that area are almost a thick as the curbs. To create planting pits would cause collateral damage to the curbs and adjacent sidewalks. The two trees slated to go at these sites will be used on Broad Street.

Broad Street:
The tree removals are complete. We have worked with the engineers and the concrete contractor to plan planting pits for the replanting. We will be adding 3 additional sites bring the total to 12 trees in this block. The replacement trees are available for planting when the sidewalks have been completed. The nursery is holding the new trees for planting when we are ready. I will be checking on availabilities for the 600 block, this block will most likely be planted in the fall.

Arborist Comments/Recommendations:
Below is a list of dead or hazard trees on borough right of ways that should be removed this summer. I have included pruning recommendations targeting deadwood 2 inches in diameter and larger for trees in the general areas around the removals.

Removals
- **729 Beaver** – large leaning, declining London Planetree
- **100 Centennial** – dead Horse Chestnut
- **341 Centennial** – dying Ash
- **514 Grove** – dead Sugar Maple
- **315 Peebles** declining Sugar Maple
- **265 Thorn** (on Little) – large declining Sycamore with cavity at
- **War Memorial Park** – 3 dead Ashes, 2 dead Elms to remove.

Pruning
- **Beaver:**
  - **711 Beaver** – London Planetrees
  - **943 Beaver** – 3 London Planetrees
- **Little Street:**
  - **305 Little** – 2 Sycamore
  - **412 Little** - Norway Maple
  - **302 Beaver** – Silver Maple (deadwood and reduction to a sub-crown)
  - **315 Peebles** – Sycamore
  - **265 Thorn** – 5 Sycamores
- **Grove Street:**
  - **520 Grove** – Sugar Maple
  - **136 Centennial** – Norway Maple
- **War Memorial Park**:
  - Sycamore near play ground

Respectfully submitted,

James P. Edson, Jr.
Sewickley Borough Arborist