

Tree Commission Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 10, 2009 at 5:30 PM

Ed Overland Room at City Hall, 381 E Main, Stoughton, WI

Members Present: Todd Fossum, Tim Carter, Jay Schotzko, Darren Marsh, Tim Berndt, Josh LaPointe, Craig Wood, Rick Gullickson and Randy Nelson

Absent & Excused: Pat Ready and Dean Tangeman

Guests: Stoughton resident Dawn Lamberty

Call to order: Meeting called to order by Fossum without a quorum. Marsh arrived at 5:35 PM and LaPointe arrived at 5:45PM

- 1) **Approval of minutes from August 13, 2009 meeting:** Motion by Carter seconded by Marsh to approve minutes. Motion carried 4-0.
- 2) **Correspondence:** *Erdahl* stated that a package was received from the Department of Natural Resources in response to the intent to apply for a grant form submitted at the end of August.
- 3) **Referral from Mayor Griffin – Bee issue at 116 W Randolph St:** Homeowner, Dawn Lamberty, wrote a letter to Mayor Griffin with concerns for her son who has a form of autism and is also allergic to bees. In the park row on her property, there are two crab apple trees which bear fruit and attract bees. Ms Lamberty is requesting that the City remove the trees due to the sparse condition of the trees and her son's medical situation. **Motion by Carter, seconded by Schotzko to direct staff to remove the two crabapple trees at 116 W Randolph Street in Stoughton. Motion carried 5-0.**
- 4) **2010 Budget Update:** Public Works Committee made recommendations to the Finance Committee and the budget is still being worked on.
- 5) **Stoughton Tree Ordinances Review:** Page four of Ordinance 64-14 Street trees was reviewed with changes made in section (m), #2(d), #4, section (o), section (p), section (q) and section (t). *Erdahl* will make the changes to the ordinance and brings copies showing the mark ups to the October meeting.
- 6) **Tree Selections and Prohibited Plantings:** Committee felt there should be an acceptable list and a restricted list to post and keep the option to review a selection if a resident requested a specific type of tree. Members are to review both lists and bring recommendations to the October meeting.
- 7) **Japanese Knotweed:** The committee would like to proceed with the idea of trying to get a moratorium in place. *Carter* stressed having very good reasoning to get this adopted. *Erdahl* will copy the the Ash tree moratorium and use the same format to draft a plan for Japanese Knotweed. An invasive plant list will be printed from the DNR website for Wisconsin.
- 8) **Tree Planting on Private Property:** *Erdahl* read a response from CVMIC the Cities insurance provider with their suggestions. The City Attorney has yet to reply. Street Superintendent, Karl Manthe, suggested the committee began the process of drafting a form to use that the homeowner could sign granting permission for the City to plant a tree on their property. The committee feels that new subdivisions should be included from the beginning and not even plant any trees in the park rows if possible. If a response is received from the City attorney before the October meeting, the response will be emailed to all committee members.
- 9) **Future Agenda Items:** Japanese Knotweed Moratorium, Stoughton Tree Ordinance, Prohibited Tree Planting List and Planting on Private Property

Motion by Marsh seconded by Fossum to adjourn meeting at 6:45 p.m. Motion carried 5-0.
Respectfully submitted, Vickie Erdahl - Staff Member