

Tree Commission Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 8th, 2023 @ 5:00 PM
Hybrid Meeting - Stoughton, WI

Members Present: Mike Point, Kevin Short, Dean Tangeman & Jim Fitzgibbon

Absent & Excused: Aaron Mazzone & Fred Hundt

Staff: City Forester John Kemppainen

Guest: Tyler Denig (new resident)

Call to order: Tangeman called to order @ 5:03 PM

- **Communications:**
- *Kemppainen* stated County Oak Project ties into Notable Trees Initiative by Commission.
- **Approval of minutes from February 8th, 2023 Meeting:** *will need to approve at next month's meeting.
- **January Forestry Reports:** *Kemppainen* stated:
 - He assisted with several snow events in February.
 - He attended the Wisconsin Arborist Association annual winter conference in Green Bay.
 - Two city trees were removed in February in city parks. Additional large tree removals still need to be completed within some parks but conditions have not been conducive to using equipment on turf covered areas.
 - One ordinance violation notice was sent out to a resident in February. This notice was for low branches over the sidewalk.
 - One terrace tree planting application for new construction was submitted in February. This application is for a portion of the 51 West development that includes multiple apartment buildings.
- **OLD BUSINESS: Canopy Cover**

Short attended and recently spoke to the Sustainability Committee on behalf of the Tree Commission Canopy Cover discussions. He advised that the feedback was good and they may be willing to collaborate in the future; equity and inclusion may be a focus. The Committee asked for Tree Commission members to fill out their survey online and Short will forward.

Spring Tree Sale

Kemppainen stated all trees have been ordered and will be ready for pick up in April. Date has tentatively been set for sale for April 29th from 9am to Noon. He will get pricing and information by end of March to the Commission.

Arbor Day Celebration Visits:

Kemppainen stated that the School District is on board with tree planting at School properties. The High School Environmental Club is interested in helping out both physically and with funding. He will need to finalize with Fox Prairie School this year yet.

- **NEW BUSINESS: Stoughton Notable Trees Initiative:**

Tangeman would like to start cataloging public and private trees that are worthy of work. Fitchburg has a Heritage Tree Project and Dane County has a Heritage Oak Project – both 200+ years old. These trees can also be added to GLS so that residents can see it as well.

High School Arboretum

The FFA Alumni would like to have new trees planted and the Tree Commission could donate/plant new trees. Discussion was then had about possibly doing a full day of service with Ag students. *Tangeman* will reach out to the Ag teacher.

Future Agenda Items:

Arbor Day Celebration Visits - continued
Canopy Coverage – continued
Spring Tree Sale – continued
Stoughton Notable Trees Initiative
High School Arboretum - continued

Motion by Short, seconded by Fitzgibbon to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 p.m. Motion carried 4-0

Respectfully submitted 3/9/23, Jen Wagner - Staff