Tree Commission Meeting Minutes
Thursday November 12, 2020 @ 5:00 PM
Virtual Meeting - Stoughton, WI

Members Present: Mitch Bergeson, Mike Point, Kevin Short, Dean Tangeman, Fred Hundt and Jim Fitzgibbon

Absent & Excused:

Staff: City Forester John Kemppainen and Admin Asst. Vickie Erdahl

Guest:

Call to order: Bergeson called to order @ 5:12 PM

1) **Communications:**

- *Kemppainen* announced that the City of Stoughton was awarded the 2021 DNR Grant that was applied for. We need to wait for the press release from the DNR before announcing to the public.
- *Bergeson* requested, since the grant was awarded, that the gravel beds and outreach be placed on the December agenda
- *Kemppainen* stated that there have been several incidents with homeowners removing park row trees without permission – ask for ideas on how to prevent this from happening. *Bergeson* asked if there was any progress with the tree issue on Furseth Rd.

2) **Approval of minutes from October 8, 2020 Meeting: Motion by Short, seconded by Point to approve the minutes. Carried 5-0.**

3) **Forestry Reports:** *Kemppainen* stated:

October:

- Fall tree planting was completed. 121 trees were planted this fall.
- Work continues in Amundson Park to remove ash trees.
- Assisted with the final brush collection for the year.
- I attended the WAA fall conference-virtually. The event is typically a one-day conference but this year was spread across 4 afternoons in 2 hour increments.
- I agreed to speak during an urban forestry career day in November. The event will be held virtually and is being organized by the WIDNR. Several classrooms have signed up for the event and it will also be recorded and made available through the states LEAF program for educators.

4) **Discussion on Zoning / Landscape Ordinance:** *Subcommittee* held multiple meetings which -

- Categories and point values were discussed
- 15 climax trees were identified, tall, medium and small deciduous trees were identified, and low evergreens and tall shrubs were identified
- Cultivars, poor performing species and invasive species were removed.
- Will continue work on the medium to smaller trees & shrubs to determine point value
- Group did **not** modify the classifications

The committee reviewed the tables with the completed work and discussed. The sub-committee will be meeting again before the December meeting and hopes to have a final version available. At this point the document would be forwarded to Zoning Administrator - Michael Stacey for review.

DRAFT

5) <u>Future Agenda Items:</u> 2021 DNR Grant – gravel beds and outreach, Landscape / Zoning Ordinance Review

Motion by Point seconded by Short to adjourn the meeting at 6:00 p.m. Respectfully submitted 11/19/2020, Vickie Erdahl - Staff

DRAFT