

Tree Commission Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, December 14th, 2022 @ 5:00 PM

Hybrid Meeting - Stoughton, WI

Members Present: Kevin Short, Aaron Mazzone, Dean Tangeman & Fred Hundt

Absent & Excused: Jim Fitzgibbon & Mike Point

Staff: City Forester John Kempainen

Guest:

Call to order: Tangeman called to order @ 5:00 PM

- **Communications:**

- *Short* stated he spoke to a Sustainability Committee member and will speak to Committee at Jan. 23 meeting at 6:00pm
- *Kempainen* stated he spoke to a resident about commission vacancy and she may be joining soon.
- **Approval of minutes from November 9th, 2022 Meeting:** Motion by Mazzone, seconded by Short to approve the minutes. Carried 4-0.

- **November Forestry Reports:** *Kempainen* stated:

- Fall tree trimming began on larger trees. Tree Wise Men began fall/winter trimming in Zone 1 (southwest side of the City).
- The City Forester, John Kempainen attended training to receive the Tree Risk Assessment Qualification through the ISA.
- Several trees were planted around the Public Works facility to replace trees which died. The trees were all purchased in the spring and placed in the gravel bed nursery to grow new roots throughout the summer. Cummins volunteers assisted with this work.
- A Basic Tree Risk Assessment was completed for a private tree at 200 Rowe St. as part of road and sidewalk construction. The city will attempt to save this tree during sidewalk installation in 2023.
- No city trees were removed in November.
- No ordinance violation notices were sent out to residents in November.
- No terrace tree planting applications for new construction were submitted in November.

- **OLD BUSINESS: Canopy Cover – Sustainable Urban Forest**

Short will be speaking with the Sustainability Committee to see if there are ways to collaborate moving forward and possibly help with tree planting projects. Discussion was also had about having the city adopt a canopy cover and how this would need to go to Public Works Committee before it would go to Council. *Short* proposed that the group should set a canopy cover percentage goal at the next Commission meeting. *Tangeman* would like this tabled for next month's meeting to discuss further.

- **NEW BUSINESS: Spring tree sale – add species:**

Tangeman proposed that everyone think of species that would be a good fit and discuss at the January meeting.

- **Continue meetings as hybrid or in person only:**

Discussion was had that recruitment may be easier if we keep hybrid format.

Motion by Mazzone, seconded by Tangemen to proceed with hybrid meeting and continue to evaluate going forward. Carried 4-0

Future Agenda Items:

Arbor Day Celebration
Canopy Coverage – continued
Spring Tree Sale - continued

Motion by Short, seconded by Mazzone to adjourn the meeting at 5:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted 12/15/22, Jen Wagner - Staff