

Tree Commission Meeting Minutes
Thursday, July 13, 2017 at 4:30 PM
Ed Overland Room, City Hall, 381 E Main St, Stoughton

Members Present: Kevin Short, Dean Tangeman, Keith Kvalheim, and Sid Boersma

Absent & Excused: Robert Kardasz

Guest:

Staff: Director of Public Works Brett Hebert and Street Department Secretary Vickie Erdahl

Call to order: Meeting called to order @ 4:35 PM

1) Communications:

- *Hebert stated-* 1) Three Tree Comm. vacancies were filled (Mike Pointe, Nicholas Yuknis, Mitch Bergeson) at the 7-11-17 Council meeting 2) *Tangeman* asked that Parks not put so much mulch around the trees 3) Mandt Park was significantly damaged when the fair moved out due to nearly 2" of rain the night before 4) Jims Tree Service in 75 – 80% complete with the EAB tree and stump removal

2) Forestry Reports: Boards in the kiln and boards being stored need to be counted and someone needs to check with Asleson's on board sales and wood for the store. Crew working on trimmings and removal plus stump removal.

Hebert is hoping to be able to store wood at the new facility and stated the board walk frame had been ordered for the Virgin Lake Park.

3) Scholarship Update – Possible Forestry Internship: *Hebert* stated that the city attorney reviewed the idea of funds being set aside for a scholarship and stated that the funds had been co-mingled with city funds so it couldn't be used in that capacity. The suggestion made was to create a Forestry Internship and purchase trees.

Motion by Boersma, seconded by Tangeman to not pursue the scholarship and to consider an internship for 2018. Motion carried 4-0.

4) Tree Removal on City Property - Discussion: *Hebert* reviewed the situation @ 708 Roby Rd where the builder changed the plans but did not notify the city and removed a terrace tree that the property was given credit for. *Hebert*, after reviewing the details felt that the action was not done deceitfully so therefore made a judgement call to have the homeowner pay \$ 350.00 to cover the third tree. The Tree Commission had made a motion for a different in regards to this property and now is making a motion to rescind the previous motion and support the Public Works Directors decision regarding the situation.

Motion by Kvalheim, seconded by Short to rescind the original motion made at the April 12, 2017 Tree Commission Meeting and have this homeowner pay \$350.00 for another tree. Motion carried 4-0.

Second motion by Boersma, seconded by Tangeman to state that if a similar situation arises, the homeowner will need to come before the Tree Commission ASAP to review the case. Motion carried 4-0.

5) Approval of minutes from April 12, 2017 Meeting: Motion by Tangeman, seconded by Kvalheim to approve the minutes. Carried 4-0.

- 6) **Vote on Chair & Co-Chair:** Motion by *Borsema* to nominate Kevin Short, seconded by Kvalheim. Motion carried 4-0. Motion by *Boersma* to nominate Dean Tangeman, seconded by Kvalheim. Motion carried 3-0.
- 7) **Stoughton Municipal Zoning Ordinance: Appendix B:** *The Planning Dept.* sent this list to the Tree Commission as a courtesy. *Hebert* stated that developers are assessed points for credits when planting on private property depending on the type of trees planted. Trees are required per a formula per zoning district. *Short* asked if the city thought about getting away from the point system and using a canopy cover system. *Short is going to find a community that is currently using a canopy system.* The committee was wondering if this idea is worth letting the Planning Dept. know or if a recommendation should be made to look into the idea. This issue was placed on the agenda for August to discuss further or to have the input from the new members.
- 8) **Tree Commission Responsibilities:** *TABELED* in order to review and discuss with new members.
- 9) **City Forester Position:** *Hebert* stated that there were 15 applicants which was narrowed down to four which he had interviewed earlier in the day and made a recommendation to hire to Human Resources. Three applicants were from out of state and one from Sun Prairie. If offered the position and accepted they would have to move to a 20 mile radius from the city for emergency response. The job description was rewritten to accommodate more hours toward Forestry.
- 10) **Future Agenda Items:** Stoughton Municipal Zoning Ordinance, Tree Comm. Responsibilities, Budgeting Recommendations, Private Property Tree Planting

Motion by Short, seconded by Tangeman to adjourn the meeting at 5:45 p.m. Respectfully submitted 7/18/17, Vickie Erdahl - Staff