Tree Commission Meeting Minutes
Thursday June 11, 2020 @ 5:00 PM
Bjoin Park, 100 E Wilson St, Stoughton, WI

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

Absent & Excused:

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

Guest:

Call to order: Bergeson called to order @ 5:01 PM

1) **Communications:**

- *Kemppainen* introduced the new Forestry Intern Grace Benson, who is attending Stevens Point University.
- Committee members introduces themselves to the new board member, Jim Fitzgibbons.
- *Erdahl* reported that the Council Rep would be appointed at the June Public Works meeting on the 18th.

Kemppainen reported:

- that he had applied for a grant through American Transmission which was received. The $400 check was deposited to the Tree Commission Donation acct and will be used for Arbor Day in 2021 – with thoughts of purchasing higher quality trees and also a larger to tree to plant at a school and then each year planting on a rotation until all schools had received a tree.
- sent out a memo regarding a complaint received from the homeowner @ 1407 Roby Rd on a 21" inch tree in the park row which they were requesting be removed. Members were asked to review the tree which Tangeman, Point, Short and Bergeson all looked at the tree and felt it was in fantastic condition. Homeowner will be invited to attend the July meeting.
- The Wisconsin Urban Wood became of chapter of the Urban Wood Network. John was asked to speak at the Urban Wood Network 1st Annual Conf. in November of 2020 in Kentucky.

2) **Approval of minutes from March 12, 2020 Meeting: Motion by Tangeman, seconded by Point to approve the minutes. Carried 4-0.**

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

- Located planting sites for spring planting. 175 trees are being planted in June.
- Removed trees for road construction projects this summer. Jim's Tree Service was utilized for several tree removals as well. Approximately 40 trees were removed from street terraces and parks for road construction and utility upgrades.
- Worked with Utilities Director Jill Weiss on a major sanitary sewer upgrade which requires removal of several trees on private property and in Bjoin Park. Several meetings with residents were required to work out details of removal and replacement tree options.
- Materials were purchased to build a gravel bed (for bare root nursery stock) at the PW facility. The project will be completed in June and trees will be purchased for fall planting.
- Several stumps were removed and restored in street terraces, parks, and at the utilities office building.
  The Forestry Intern started work in mid-May and has already shown to be a valuable asset to the team.

DRAFT

Commission members questioned Kemppainen about trees and the lead abatement project that Stoughton Utilities will be doing in park rows.

4) **Elect Chair & Vice Chair:** Committee decided to hold a separate meeting to update this ordinance which

Short nominated Bergeson for Chair, seconded by Tangeman. **Motion carried 4-0.**
Bergeson nominated Short for Vice-Chair, seconded by Point. **Motion carried 4-0.**

5) **Discussion on DNR Grants:** *Bergeson* will write a proposal for the 2021 grant, including paperwork provided at the meeting to submit to the DNR. Committee still needs to decide whether we will seek city funds or use Tree Comm. Fund for the matching 50/50 grant, a name for the project.

The Committee, would like to pursue, a grant for private land affecting public property. Several members mentioned that numerous ash trees have been removed on private properties and felt it would be nice if with could help the homeowners with replacement trees to increase the urban forest where there is a need.

Ideas: The homeowner would apply for a tree, charge a small fee (i.e. $20), information packet on tree care included, Tree Commission would help with tree planting.

Kemppainen suggested buying 1" bare root trees, planting in the gravel bed to use for this tree planting project. Kemppainen will check into costs for purchasing these trees.

6) **Discussion / Plan for a Lumber Sale:** *Kemppainen* stated that with the COVID-19 we are unable to have an event or allow people into the building at this time to purchase wood. A new inventory will be done will be done this summer. Kemppainen would like to discuss some ideas at the next meeting regarding an on-going program, etc.

7) **Future Agenda Items:** Zoning Ordinance, DNR Grant, Gravel Bed Program

Motion by Tangeman seconded by Point to adjourn the meeting at 6:17 p.m. Respectfully submitted 6/19/2020, Vickie Erdahl - Staff

DRAFT