

Tree Commission Meeting Minutes
Thursday June 10, 2021 @ 5:00 PM
Virtual Meeting - Stoughton, WI

Members Present: Mike Point, Fred Hundt, Jim Fitzgibbon, Dean Tangeman & Kathy Engelberger

Absent & Excused: Kevin Short

Staff: City Forester John Kemppainen and Admin Asst. Jen Wagner

Guest:

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

1) Communications:

Kemppainen stated he has been working on sidewalk repairs with Kevin & the DNR this week due to root issues. New sidewalks should be in next week

Kemppainen stated a new member for the commission should be approved for next month by Council.

2) Approval of minutes from May 13th, 2021 Meeting: Motion by Point, seconded by Hundt to approve the minutes. Carried 4-0.

3) May Forestry Reports: *Kemppainen* stated:

- Spring tree planting was completed. 69 new trees were planted, along with several replacement trees under warranty
- I worked with Brain Wahl from the WIDNR regarding a tree root/sidewalk study that we are partnering on in Stoughton
- The Forestry Intern began work in May. Tyler Drost is a student at UWSP going into his sophomore year this fall. He has already proven to be a hard worker
- The trees for the DNR UF Grant continue to do well in the gravel bed nursery. They are now being watered twice daily due to the heat and dry conditions we are experiencing
- The Lead Service Replacement Project being completed by SU is now ongoing and is beginning to require multiple site visits per week to discuss tree issues.

4) OLD BUSINESS: Discussion on 2021 DNR Grant – Timeline, forms and report on hours:

- *Kemppainen* stated all trees planted are still alive and asked for suggestions on how to further more get the word out about the free trees available to residents
- *Engelberger* suggested putting a message on the digital solar traffic sign that is in front of the Fire Department
- *Hundt* will mention something at the next Council meeting
- *Engelberger* offered to write a letter to the editor to encourage residents to water their trees as well as more information about the trees available
- *Kemppainen* will be keeping track of everyone's hours for the Grant now that *Bergeson* is no longer on the Commission

5) NEW BUSINESS: List for Legacy Tree Program:

- *Tangeman* stated this list is still a work in progress and hopes to be able to update as time goes on

6) Review Tree Applications:

- *Kemppainen* stated he has received 6 applications so far. The majority of them have stated they would like new trees due to losing trees in the past
- Any leftover/unused trees need to be planted on private property within the City limits; will address where when the time comes

7) Future Agenda Items:

- Elect Chair and co-chair

Motion by Hundt seconded by Tangeman to adjourn the meeting at 5:35 p.m. Respectfully submitted 6/11/21, Jen Wagner - Staff