

Tree Commission Meeting Minutes

Thursday, July, 2019 at 5:00 PM

Department of Public Works, 2439 County Hwy A, Stoughton

Members Present: Mitch Bergeson, Dean Tangeman, Mike Point, Kevin Short and Matt Bartlett

Absent & Excused:

Staff: City Forester John Kemppainen and DPW Secretary Vickie Erdahl

Call to order: Tangeman called to order @ 5.02 PM

1) **Communications:**

- *Point* submitted \$24.00 from board sales to the Tree Commission Fund.
- *Kemppainen & Intern* will be attending the Summer WAA Conference in Green Lake on Tuesday, July 16
- *Kemppainen* was nominated as Municipal Chair for the Wisconsin Urban Wood Network
- *Kemppainen* stated that oak wilt was discovered @ Bjoin Park on the trail. Samples were taken to Madison. *Tangeman* stated that there was also a Red Oak on the Zalk Joseph property along the trail that has oak wilt also.
- *Erdahl* stated that installation of the frame for the boardwalk had started in the new location behind the hospital on the Amundson Trail
- *Bergeson* mentioned that a Stoughton group is looking for some oak and ash (16-18 in diameter) to use as they are building a Scandinavian cart.

2) **June Forestry Reports:** *Kemppainen* stated:

- A large storm hit the west side of Stoughton on 05/25/19. This storm required multiple weeks of work to clean up. Approximately 25 trees were removed due to the storm. Public Works staff handled the majority of tree removal work and all cleanup work. Jim's Tree Service assisted with removals. Hangers are still being found and removed more than one month later.
- All remaining ash trees on street terraces and in maintained park areas were treated for Emerald Ash Borer.
- Tree protection sites were monitored along Lowell Street and parts of South Monroe Street for construction.
- Brush Collection was completed for the entire city.
- Tree trimming was done at multiple sites for clearance purposes (over roads, buildings...)
- Several newly planted trees required extra care, including staking to correct leans caused by heavy winds in May and June.

Kemppainen requested that the committee to come up with any suggestions regarding brush collection as the city is fighting a losing battle with the residents to be in compliance and spending a tremendous amount of time surrounding all aspects of collection. **Placed as a Future Agenda Item.**

3) **Discussion and possible action regarding Wood Cycle Program:** *Bergeson* reorganized the document after the suggestions/discussions at Junes meeting and presented to the committee.

Two changes were made 1) under wood sales, fifth line the word "to" was changed to "from" and a sentence was added under the Revenue section the line "*All expenditures from this fund will be reviewed by the Tree Commission.*"

Motion to recommend John K to move the document forward to the Public Works Committee for review after the necessary changes are made. Motion carried 5-0.

After review the request was made to post the document to the website.

- 4) **Discussion and possible action regarding Landscape Ordinance and Hazardous Tree Ordinance (78-611):** Committee started to discuss but found out we did not have enough information on how the process worked and what was needed in order to change the ordinance. *Tabled to August meeting.*

Direct staff to make contact with Mike Stacey, Planning / Development Dept. to attend the August meeting to discuss.

- 5) **Website Update:** *Kemppainen* stated Hebert was expecting information in the next week regarding the site. The Public Works Department was granted permission to set up a Social Media account (informational only).
- 6) **Approval of minutes from June 20, 2019 Meeting:** Motion by Tangeman seconded by Point to approve the minutes. Carried 5-0
- 7) **Discussion and possible action on Fall Wood Sale:** *Kemppainen* spoke with AJ and she had asked what the value of the wood was and then did not get back with John. Selling the wood would be considered sale of the City Property and has to be sufficiently advertised. Questions: 1) All places to advertise, 2) Date & Time, 3) What about insurance if people on city property and 4) What happens with the remaining inventory. This information will be brought to the next meeting.
- 8) **Discussion on Brochure for Wood Cycle Program:** *Tabled to August Meeting.*
- 9) **Future Agenda Items:** Website Update, Fall Wood Sale, Landscape/Zoning Ordinance, Brochure for Wood Program, Brush Collection

Motion by Short seconded by Point to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 p.m. Respectfully submitted 7/16/19, Vickie Erdahl - Staff