

**Tree Commission Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday October 8, 2020 @ 5:00 PM**  
**Virtual Meeting - Stoughton, WI**

**Members Present:** Mitch Bergeson, Mike Point, Kevin Short, Dean Tangeman

**Absent & Excused:** Fred Hundt and Jim Fitzgibbon

**Staff:** City Forester John Kempainen and Admin Asst. Vickie Erdahl

**Guest:**

**Call to order:** Bergeson called to order @ 5:05 PM

1) **Communications:**

2) **Approval of minutes from September 10, 2020 Meeting:** Motion by Short, seconded by Tangeman to approve the minutes. Carried 4-0.

3) **Forestry Reports:** *Kempainen* stated:

**September:**

- Located planting sites for fall tree planting. A total of 121 trees will be planted this fall.
- Work continues in Amundson Park to remove ash trees.
- I met with Stoughton resident Don Rorvig to discuss log donations to the Stoughton Oseberg Wagon project. The Tree Commission has donated some lumber already but the project needs additional pieces to complete the work.
- I will be a presenter for the Urban Wood Network's National Urban Wood Academy, which will take place on November 20, 2020. This event will be virtual, originally was planned to take place in Louisville, KY as part of the Arbor Day Foundation annual conference.
- I met with the DNR to discuss upcoming research project looking at tree root/sidewalk conflicts. Multiple sites have been included as potential locations for the study but sidewalk repair funding is still unknown for 2021. The study will look at different treatment methods to address roots which are affecting hardscape infrastructure.
- Submitted an application for an Urban Forestry grant through the DNR. This grant application was submitted on behalf of the Tree Commission to complete a private property tree planting initiative in response to ash trees lost to EAB.

4) **Discussion on Zoning / Landscape Ordinance:** *Subcommittee* held a meeting earlier in October. At this meeting language changes were drafted to the Zoning Ordinance Sec 78-611 – Classification of plant species. Changes made were in yellow (zoning administrator changed to City Forester and/or the City Tree Commission) and deleted language was highlighted in pink (Deletion of Table 78-611).

**Motion by Tangeman, seconded by Point to approve draft of verbiage and move the modification forward to the Planning Commission for review. Motion carried 4-0.**

At this time an open discussion began on Appendix B to decide which trees would be considered as Climax, Tall Deciduous, Medium Deciduous, Low Deciduous and non-contributory (no point trees). Also discussed were the point values. Multiple tree species and values were evaluated.

*Kemppainen* will provide the subcommittee with a breakdown of species from the inventory as the tables that were being used were several years old.

5) **Discussion on Tree Application and Criteria:** This item was tabled until we know whether we received the grant.

6) **Future Agenda Items:** Landscape / Zoning Ordinance Review,

Motion by Tangeman seconded by Point to adjourn the meeting at 6:19 p.m. Respectfully submitted 10/20/2020, Vickie Erdahl - Staff