

Tree Commission Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 10 at 5:00 PM
Ed Overland Room, 381 E Main St, Stoughton

Members Present: Mitch Bergeson, Dean Tangeman, Mike Point, Kevin Short and Nick Yuknis

Absent & Excused: Sid Boersma

Staff: City Forester John Kemppainen and Street Department Secretary Vickie Erdahl

Call to order: Bergeson called to order @ 5:00 PM

1) Communications: *Kemppainen stated:*

- Start date at New Public Works Facility will be Monday, January 14th.
- Contractor planted trees at the new site and the feels the trees were poorly planted and may die. The trees have a one year warranty.
- When meeting with Capital City & Jim's Tree Service for annual tree trimming – prices were much higher than 2018 which means less trimming work will be contracted out and more in-house will be scheduled.
- Ash removal complete except for the trees that are currently being treated. The monies left in the account will be used for replacement trees to be planted and product for continuing to treat the remaining ash trees
- Public Works Director Hebert stated that he would like to have the Public Works website completely revamped and is considering an outside contractor
- Tangeman reported the DNR website is being revamped so there is no report on the Stoughton Tulip Tree submitted for its record size.

2) December Forestry Reports: *Kemppainen stated :*

- Met/talked with contractors to secure prices for upcoming tree trimming project.
- I was a guest speaker for the Agriculture education classes at Stoughton High School. Discussed forestry careers and invasive pests with the students.
- Small tree trimming continued in December. Fifty-five (55) trees between 2" & 6" diameter were trimmed for structure and clearance in zone 2. Small tree trimming will continue throughout the winter.
- Trimmed dozens of small trees in Westview Ridge Park with Patrick Groom.
- Seven (7) trees were removed by Public Works personnel. Four (4) trees were removed by contractor.
- Completed necessary requirements to maintain Certified Arborist credential and renewed credential for additional 3 years.
- Assisted Street Department with plowing/salting operations on multiple occasions.
- Began organizing/packing office for move to new facility in January 2019.

3) Discussion on 2019 Arbor Day Event / Plan: *Kemppainen reported that the tube trees were around \$4.00 a tree which was more than anticipated. Ideas to pursue:*

- Will check with some groups to see if they would be interested in a donation
- Check into using the Tree Comm. Donation monies for an Arbor Day celebration
- Plant a larger tree at each school or a city property, since the small trees given to students just get tossed – question as to who would dig the holes as there wouldn't be enough time during the school presentation

ACTION ITEM – find a better report that's easier to read to know the balance in the Tree Commission Donation Acct.

Kemppainen left meeting at 5:40 PM.

- 4) **Discussion on City Website – Information on Tree Comm., Links & Other Information:** The entire committee feels the website needs more information including a description of the committee's duties, plus separate pages added to include the following:

Tree Tribute Brochure, EAB Treatment, Gypsy Moth, Tree Selection, Licensed Tree Contractors, and Stoughton Big Trees – with links to a National website, Information of Stoughton Parkrow Trees and Wood Recycling Program.

The committee would like to see the following links put on the Tree Comm. page or on a page of links relevant to trees such as:

Tree Inventory, Trees are Good, Relevant Tree Ordinances and Planting Permits.

The City Forester has already started working on some of the information he would like posted.

Placed on February Agenda

- 5) **Approval of minutes from December 13, 2018 Meeting:** Motion by Short seconded by Tangeman to approve the minutes. Carried 5-0.

- 6) **Discussion on Hazardous Tree Ordinance Review:** *Was moved to the beginning of agenda.*

Kemppainen informed the committee that he had received a memo from the attorney with improvements which lets the city have some power to take action regarding the hazardous trees. The attorney is going to draft a repeal and replace of Ordinance 58-10 Public Nuisances and will be including new sections.

Kemppainen and Hebert will be meeting with the city attorney to discuss changes. Some of the changes include the Director or his designee can go on to private property to inspect trees and the Director of Public Works Hebert and Planning Director Scheel will be able to write citations.

After the draft is completed the Tree Commission will be able to review and then forward to the Public Works Comm. who would then forward on to the City Council.

Placed on February Agenda

- 7) **Future Agenda Items:** Website, Hazard Ordinance Review and 2019 Arbor Day

Motion by Tangeman, seconded by Yuknis to adjourn the meeting at 6:15 p.m. Respectfully submitted 1/17/19, Vickie Erdahl - Staff