

## Tree Commission Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 11, 2018 at 4:30 PM

Ed Overland Room, City Hall, 381 E Main St, Stoughton

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

**Absent & Excused:** Bob Kardasz

**Guest:**

**Staff:** Director of Public Works Brett Hebert, City Forester John Kemppainen and Street Department Secretary Vickie Erdahl

**Call to order:** Meeting called to order @ 4:30 PM

### 1) **Communications:**

*Hebert* stated:

- Capital City Tree Experts were awarded the bid for 2017. They will be starting in Zone 1 – SW Corner of city and may also be able to trim in Zone 2 which is north of Main far west side of the city.
- The ash boards need to be put in the kiln to dry as Cummins will be sending volunteers to frame out the boardwalk at Virgin Lake

*Kemppainen* stated:

- A DNR questioner was filled out and sent to Stevens Point regarding how Stoughton handles its Urban Forest Program.

*Erdahl* requested the committee to think of some ideas to do for an Arbor Day Event. *Boersma* stated that Sustainable Stoughton is holding an Earth Day event on Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup> which the Tree Commission will participate in.

### 2) **Forestry Reports:** *Kemppainen* will now be submitting a report on the monthly activities and financial reports will be updated when there are transactions.

### 3) **Discuss and Recommend changes to the Stoughton Municipal Zoning Ordinance: Appendix B:** *Hebert and Kemppainen* stated that the climax trees has been missed (*Short had received incomplete data*) and not added into the tables for points which has a profound effect on calculating points and how many trees would need to be planted.

*Michael Stacey* at the Planning Dept. developed a proposal using the new Public Works Facility as an example using the structured point system the Tree Commission was proposing and the point system currently in place and the result was that without the climax trees even more trees would need to be planted.

Committee is adding the climax trees and developing a plan. *Yuknis* stated that the Callery Pear was put on the USDA Invasive list and suggested that we incorporate native trees and shrubs that are available.

*Kemppainen* is working on a plan to present to the committee.

**Placed on February Agenda**

- 4) **Update on Wood Sales – Inventory & Tracking:** *Kemppainen* stated that no wood has recently been sold and is developing a plan to use in the future to handle sales, etc. included will be: an inventory of wood on hand, milling costs, pricing list (per board ft), how to handle sales, distinguish which budget accounts are used and who covers what costs in specific situations. Originally the thought was, from the monies earned, that some would go back into the urban forest or provide a scholarship (which the city attorney stated we could not go that route) and suggested using the funds for an internship.

**Placed on the February agenda.**

- 5) **Approval of minutes from November 30, 2017 Meeting:** Motion by Tangeman seconded by Boersma to approve the minutes. Carried 6-0.

- 6) **Tree Tribute Program:** *Kemppainen* stated that he plans to reduce the brochure to a one page PDF document that residents could download and submit on line. This form needs to be placed on the website where it is more accessible.

Changes are that no trees would be listed on the form. The cost of the tree would follow the current charges for tree purchasing and planting for new buildings and developers. The purpose and the guidelines will be reviewed.

*Sid left the meeting @ 5:25PM*

- 7) **Discussion Concerning EAB Treatments & Efficacy:** *Kemppainen* produced a table showing ten year treatment vs removals costs for the remaining ash trees in the city on public property. The question is, is should the city keep treating the trees and then eventually have to remove as many of the trees already treated have not survived.

The ash trees were originally treated with TreeAzin and the city could change the chemical but then it would also have to purchase new equipment which would be add more costs. Ash trees have a relatively short life span (50 yrs.) compared with other tree species.

Residents would also need to be contacted as originally people were made aware that the city was trying to save some of the trees.

**Placed on the February agenda.**

- 8) **Annual Price Adjustment for City Tree Purchasing & Planting:** *Hebert* stated that yearly Public Works needs to review the costs to purchase and plant trees which is in Sec 66-904 (13) of the Stoughton Municipal codes and adjust the pricing as needed. After reviewing costs from 2017 (see table provided) the price will decrease from \$350.00 to \$300.00 per tree.

**Motion by Short, seconded by Yuknis to recommend to the Public Works Committee to reduce the costs of tree purchasing from \$350.00 to \$300.00 per tree. Motion carried 5-0.**

- 9) **Future Agenda Items:** Arbor Day Event, Stoughton Municipal Zoning Ordinance, Wood Inventory Plan, EAB Treatments, Tree Tribute Program

**Motion by Short, seconded by Yuknis to adjourn the meeting at 5:55 p.m. Respectfully submitted 1/12/18, Vickie Erdahl - Staff**