

**Tree Commission Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, August 9, 2018 at 5:00 PM**  
**Ed Overland Room, 381 E Main St, Stoughton**

**Members Present:** Mitch Bergeson, Mike Point, Kevin Short and Sid Boersma

**Absent & Excused:** Nick Yuknis, Dean Tangeman, Robert Kardasz and Director of Public Works Brett Hebert

**Guest:**

**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:

- That he and Caity have started counting the lumber for volume @ the barn. It will be the avg. width X avg. length per species. Some of the ash wood at the barn has been donated to an Eagle Scout Troop to build blue bird houses. The Senior Center will also been selecting some wood for their shop.
- New intern, Caity, has started updating the tree inventory of all the trees in Stoughton.
- Jim's Tree Service will be working at Race Track Park off of Cty A to remove more ash trees.
- Caity will be finishing her internship at the end of August.

*Short* requested that staff check the website for access to the tree inventory to make sure it is working properly.

*Boersma* questioned the committee about private trees and a situation with the river and a neighbor who has no access to their backyard on their own property

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

- Started updating inventory for the annual pruning program. Will be working in the center of town in the older neighborhoods.
- Road construction areas monitored for tree conflicts – at this time necessary tree removals have been done by in-house staff and contractors.
- Ash removal in Schefelker has been completed. Clean up will start ASAP
- 95 ash trees were treated and will be evaluated in 2019.
- Yahara River Trail was inspected for necessary ash tree removals – at this time nearly 120 trees will be removed.
- In-house staff, removed 9 street trees and trimmed 10 street trees.
- 2017 trees planted were inspected for warranty – five trees did not survive and will be replaced at no cost to the city.
- Private hazardous tree ordinance is still being reviewed with city attorney

**3) Discussion regarding the Wood Inventory Plan/Pricing: *Bergeson* presented his Race Track Barn inventory list and map. *Kemppainen* has started identifying the volumes of each type of wood. When measurements have been completed the committee needs to decide on how to dispose of the wood.**

The new facility will have an area for wood to be stored indoors and the forester will be able to keep a more accurate inventory. There are also logs being stored at the Matson pit outside of town which will need to be moved. *Kemppainen* is currently painting the ends of quality the logs to preserve.

*Boersma* voiced a concern about not having a saw mill and if the city had other options. *Kemppainen* knows of outside vendors that we could barter with or pay. Questions arose concerning insurance, but most of these vendors have the proper insurance if we used them. Also as a member of the Wisconsin Urban Wood we would have access to many resources for services for sawing.

- 4) **Discussion for Tree City USA & Growth Award Ideas:** *Bergeson* discussed a packet he prepared analyzing the last 13 years of awards, including funds and categories submitted. Regarding the Growth Award, the city has to have a project(s) that add up to ten points in order to qualify for the growth award.

Earlier this year the committee had discussed using the Virgin Lake Park Boardwalk to obtain our points, however, it has been consistently too wet to install. *Bergeson's* assessment showed several categories that we could potentially use to reach our goal:

A5-Community Wide Tree Event

A7- Youth Education

A10-Continuing Education for Managers & Tree Board Members

D4-Street Tree Planting

D5-Street Tree Pruning

D6-Hazard Tree Program

C8-Improved Ordinance

Committee will review and decide which direction to choose for points.

**Motion by Boersma. Seconded by Bergeson to direct staff to apply for the 2018 Tree City USA and Growth Awards.**

- 5) **Approval of minutes from July 19, 2018 Meeting:** Motion by Short seconded by Boersma to approve the minutes. Carried 4-0.

- 6) **Future Agenda Items:** Public Works Facility - New Site Plan, Tree Growth Award Plan, Wood Inventory Plan

Motion by Point, seconded by Boersma to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 p.m. Respectfully submitted 8/18/18, Vickie Erdahl - Staff