

Tree Commission Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 8, 2018 at 4:30 PM

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

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

Absent & Excused: Bob Kardasz and Nick Yuknis

Guest:

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

Call to order: Short called to order @ 4:35 PM

1) **Communications:**

Kemppainen stated:

- Capital City Tree Experts have trimmed 80 trees last month.
- Jim's Tree Service removed a large Ash tree @ Schefelker Park that was not on the inventory.
- Parks Maintenance Supervisor, *Pat Groom*, is going to do a controlled burn for the prairie @ Schefelker.
- *Kemppainen* will be meeting with the nursery to discuss stock for the spring tree planting.

Tangeman stated:

- That Stoughton might have the 2nd largest Tulip Tree in the state. It is a private tree located on Manilla St. Dean is waiting to hear back from the DNR.

2) **Forestry Reports:** *Kemppainen* attended and presented at the annual DNR WAA Conference regarding the cities wood utilization project. John also met with Mark Asleson regarding wood sales. Mark will contact John when stock is needed. At the April meeting frame work for pricing will be discussed.

Kemppainen & Hebert met with Jeff Lasoski regarding miling of logs. Jeff wanted to structure a deal for ten logs where he would keep two logs for the work and the city would keep the rest.

3) **Update and changes to the Stoughton Municipal Zoning Ordinance: Appendix B:** *This was tabled until the changes are put together and then will be brought back to the committee for review.*

4) **Wood Inventory Plan – Draft Update:** *Kemppainen* presented a draft that included structure for the program for: wood chips, logs, milled boards and wood sales. Other items to be included and discussed are: funding, account numbers for revenue and sales, where & how to sell and restrictions on how the monies are spent – must have Tree Commission approval.

Auctioning the wood on the Wisconsin Surplus on-line government site was suggested which the members thought would be a great option for selling.

This item will be an on-going agenda item to work out the details.

Sid Boersma left the meeting at 5:25 PM.

- 5) **EAB Treatments Discussion:** *Kemppainen* stated that there are 97 trees left that have been treated and presented four options to cover these trees:

- 1) Remove remaining and replace in 2018

Committee decided against this option.

- 2) Treat all remaining ash 2a) TreeAzin in house, 2b) TreeAge contractual and 2c) TreeAge in house

Kemppainen stated that after he developed these options he was made aware that he could treat the trees without a license so 2b is no longer valid. The committee was concerned with the TreeAge product, which is a more effective chemical, however, it may be harmful to pollinators that feed on ash trees and may have other “unintended consequences”. Whereas, TreeAzin is a natural botanical product that will not harm pollinators.

- 3) Hybrid remove/replace – retain & treat trees under 17” dbh 3a) TreeAzin in house, 2b) TreeAge contractual and 3c) TreeAge in house

Committee after discussion decided that all 97 ash trees should be treated. Committee feels that an integrated pest management approach with TreeAzin would be better with an occasional use of TreeAge.

- 4) Hybrid remove/retain – retain & treat trees 17” dbh and larger 4a) TreeAin in house, 4b) TreeAge contractual and 4c)TreeAge in house

Committee decided all 97 ash trees should be treated for the same reasons in option 3 above.

After discussing the four options, the committee developed a fifth option which incorporated parts from options 2-4.

- 5) To treat all 97 ash trees with TreeAzin and use TreeAge in a limited capacity and replace all 97 trees now to take advantage of the current CIP funds that are available. Some of the trees may have to be planted in other spots at this time. This approach would reduce the funds needed to replace trees in the future by utilizing the current CIP funding source allocated to ash tree replacement.

Motion by Tangeman, seconded by Short to recommend Option 5 to treat all trees with TreeAzin, then continue to monitor for this growing season and if needed treat with TreeAge and also plant trees as replacements for the treated trees as this is already budgeted for in the current CIP.

Motion carried 4-0.

- 6) **Discussion for Arbor Day Event:** *Erdahl* distributed the Fourth Grade List for tree seedling distribution. Members will visit the school as follows: Sandhill – *Short*, Kegonsa – *Tangeman*, Fox Prairie – *Kemppainen* and St Ann’s – *Bergeson*. If arrangements can be made, the kiln will visit the schools while trees are being distributed.

- 7) **Discussion for Tree City USA Growth Award Ideas:** *Tabled until April meeting.*

- 8) **Approval of minutes from February 8, 2018 Meeting:** **Motion by Bergeson seconded by Short to approve the minutes. Carried 4-0.**

- 9) **Future Agenda Items:** Arbor Day Event/ Tree City USA, Wood Inventory Plan, Wood (board) pricing

Motion by Short, seconded by Tangeman to adjourn the meeting at 6:05 p.m. Respectfully submitted 3/13/18, Vickie Erdahl - Staff