

Tree Commission Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 8, 2018 at 4:30 PM

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

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

Absent & Excused: Bob Kardasz and Dean Tangeman

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:**

Kemppainen stated:

- Contractor who was awarded the tree trimming bid started 2/8/18. *Kemppainen* has drafted a letter that will be sent to all residents in Zone 1.

Hebert stated:

- There is a meeting which *Kemppainen* and he will be attending on Monday 2/12/18 at a mill in Madison with a sawyer Jeff Lasoski to discuss milling the city's wood as the current sawyer may not be milling much longer.
- *Boersma* reminded the committee of Sustainable Stoughton's Earth Day event which the Tree Commission is participating in on Saturday 4/21/18. *Pointe* asked if the Senior Center could sell bird houses.

2) **Forestry Reports:** *Kemppainen* evaluated all the remaining ash trees in the city that had been treated. 32 of these trees were removed as they were dead. Not much other trimming was completed as the crews were dealing with snow events.

3) **Discuss and Recommend changes to the Stoughton Municipal Zoning Ordinance: Appendix B:** *This was tabled until March's meeting.*

4) **Update on Wood Sales – Inventory & Tracking:** *Kemppainen* is developing a written plan for selling and tracking the inventory. *Kemppainen* is going to reach out to the DNR for wholesale pricing to use for the wood to be sold to Asleson's, Senior Center, High School and other avenues for wood sales.

Hebert, Kemppainen and Pointe will meet with *Mark Asleson* to discuss the wood plan for his store.

Pointe stated that he knew a resident who had (private) cherry trees and are having them taken down. The Senior Center would like the wood and is wondering if someone could bring the wood to them. There is no cost for the wood.

5) **Tree Tribute Program:** *Hebert & Kemppainen* developed and presented a new flyer for the program. The name has now been changed to the City of Stoughton – *Memory Tree Program*. The cost will be \$325.00 which includes a tree and plaque. The number of characters on the plaque may need to be

limited to stay within the price range. More designing on the flyer is in progress (an area if someone just wants to donate a tree) and think of ways to advertise the program.

- 6) **EAB Treatments Discussion:** *Kemppainen* stated there was approximately 96 manicured ash trees remaining in the inventory that have been treated with TreeAzin and are in good condition with an average dbh of 12". There are other ash trees that are on city property but never identified in the inventory. *Kemppainen* will be identifying / locating all of these trees.

If the city wants to continue treating these trees, should it be with the same chemical (TreeAzin) which we already have the equipment or another option is to purchase the product (TreeAge) but that would mean also spending about \$10,000 for equipment and product plus *Kemppainen* would need to get an applicator license. Two companies on our tree lists already have licenses. If treating is the option the city chooses, we need to know by March so the product can be ordered as there is a short time frame when the product can be injected into the trees.

Currently we still have funds in the EAB budget which are available until the end of 2018. This budget covers removal and replanting. If the trees remain the costs for treating, removal and replanting will go up and, if treated, may still die.

Bergeson is going to draft a plan which different options and scenarios to bring to the March meeting for the committee to make a decision. This decision needs to be forwarded to the Public Works Committee to review.

- 7) **Approval of minutes from January 11, 2018 Meeting:** Motion by Boersma seconded by Bergeson to approve the minutes. Carried 5-0.

- 8) **Arbor Day Event:** The Commission will be participating with Sustainable Stoughton and the Earth Day Event on Saturday, April 21. Trees will be planted in a park(s) and fourth grade classes will be visited and tree seedlings distributed. (Cummins usually helps with the packaging of these seedlings) *Yuknis* suggested a nature walk and also developing a CD to show the tree cycle to the fourth grade classes and have some high school students involved in the development.

- 9) **Tree City USA Growth Award Ideas:** *Erdahl* provided the explanation sheets for the four categories that are used to qualify for an award. The city needs to get at least ten (10) points a year from the various categories to qualify. The members will be reviewing these sheets and make suggestions at the March meeting.

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

Motion by Yuknis, seconded by Bergeson to adjourn the meeting at 6:00 p.m. Respectfully submitted 2/14/18, Vickie Erdahl - Staff