

Tree Commission Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, July 13th, 2022 @ 5:00 PM

Virtual Meeting - Stoughton, WI

Members Present: Mike Point, Kevin Short, Aaron Mazzone, Jim Fitzgibbon

Absent & Excused: Dean Tangeman and Fred Hundt

Staff: City Forester John Kempainen and Admin Asst. Jen Wagner

Guest:

Call to order: Short called to order @ 5:01 PM

- **Communications:**

- *Kempainen* pointed out he will need *Point's* help with boards again for the new Boardwalk that will be put in.

- **Approval of minutes from June 8th, 2022 Meeting:** Motion by Point, seconded by Mazzone to approve the minutes. Carried 4-0.

- **June Forestry Reports:** *Kempainen* stated:

- Spongy Moth (formerly "Gypsy Moth") damage was noted in the downtown corridor, on ornamental trees bordering a public parking lot. Further inspection revealed large scale infestation in multiple trees and complete defoliation of two trees. The Forestry Division will monitor these trees for health and take appropriate actions.
- Road construction projects began in June. Several on site meetings were required for tree and root conflicts with curb and/or sidewalk replacement
- Seven city trees were removed due to poor health and/or storm in June. This work was completed by in-house staff.
- The Forestry Division, along with Brett Hebert, met with Altec Industries to get a quote for a new aerial truck for tree work. The current truck is 20 years old and nearing the end of its useful life. The new truck will hopefully be delivered in 2023.
- Five terrace tree planting applications for new construction were submitted in June
- The Forestry Division summer seasonal employee, Camren Conklin, started in June. Unfortunately, he also left in June for another position elsewhere.

- **NEW BUSINESS: Discussion of Tiny Tree Program:**

A short discussion was had that the Stoughton may not be big enough for this type of program that and everyone was in agreement that the tree sale seems to be enjoyed by residents and generates good sales. No need for action at this time.

- **Discussion about bringing back in person/hybrid meetings:**

A short discussion was had that bringing back the option for in person meetings would be beneficial. It was decided that next month will be a hybrid meeting; that way people have the option for either/or

- **Discuss possible policy on Black Walnut Trees in park rows:**

Short inquired about how many Walnut trees were in the City to see if it was pertinent to implement a City policy. *Kemppainen* stated that there are about 40 throughout the City and has only had a handful of issues come up in the last few years. *Short* brought up a discussion about possibly using a chemical called Snipper that de-flowers the trees so that they do not produce the walnuts. After looking into cost, how much was needed and the damage that would be done to the tree it was decided that with the low number of trees and very few complaints this tactic would not be necessary at this time as well as introducing a specific policy.

Future Agenda Items:

Discussion on generating more sales for lumber

Discussion of interaction between other Committees; Sustainable Committee & Rivers and Trails Taskforce

Discuss Canopy Cover

Motion by Mazzone, seconded by Point to adjourn the meeting at 5:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted 7/14/22, Jen Wagner - Staff