

## Tree Commission Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 30, 2017 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:** Nick Yuknis and 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:

- Request for bids were sent out for tree trimming. *Kemppainen* divided the city into five zones with the south west zone being the starting point. The trimming will start in 2018. Some of 2017 funds will be rolled over. *Kemppainen* would like the city to be on a five year cycle plan. When bids are returned, they will need to go to Finance and then to Council for approval.
- The new forester's truck has been ordered. It is a one ton F550 w/box and is expected to arrive in the spring of 2018
- The city acquired an additional 55 acres off Cty.Trk A by the property that the new facility will be built on. The hope is to be able to have the wood chips and wood stored on site by 2019.

*Kemppainen* stated:

- A homeowner brought to his attention that the city had a tree tribute program. After some searching he found the brochure. This brochure is very out dated and needs to be reviewed.  
**Placed on January agenda.**

Point stated:

- The Senior Center was approached by the Youth Center requesting sawdust & chips to make fire compressed fire logs – does anyone know where they could get these materials?

2) **Forestry Reports:** *Kemppainen* spoke with Asleson's and they stated they haven't sold any wood. *Kemppainen* stated that he will be a speaker in February at the WI Arborist Association convention in Green Bay. His topic is Urban Wood.

3) **Update on Chapter 66 & Ord 10-2 (d) Terrace Trees:** *Hebert* shared a memo he received from the City Attorney which stated that in Ordinance 10-2 (d) where it states that an owner of a current developed lot, if expanding, to plant a tree violates the 5<sup>th</sup> amendment. This language will be removed from the ordinance and the requirement would only be for undeveloped properties. Chapter 66 would remain the same as it strictly pertains to new developments.

**Motion by Boersma, seconded by Short to approve the changes to Ordinance 10-2 as written and recommend to the Public Works Committee to adhere to City Attorney Dregnes' recommendation. Motion carried 5-0.**

- 4) **Discuss and Recommend changes to the Stoughton Municipal Zoning Ordinance: Appendix B:** *Short*, after reviewing/comparing the city tree inventory, broke down the list of trees with point values from the zoning ordinance into three parts – foundation, parking lots and frontage trees divided by size and deciduous trees. Higher points would be assigned to trees that are deemed to be “more desirable” and diversify the forest as the city already has too many trees of certain species in case a disease strikes -- such as the emerald ash borer.

The Tree Commission would like certain invasive/nuisance species of trees to be removed from the current list as well as some others added. More discussion is needed and the committee is reviewing the lists and categories that *Short* suggested.

*Hebert* suggested that Planning Director Rodney Scheel be invited to the January meeting to explain how his department utilizes the list.

- 5) **Review and Recommendations for Private Property Tree Planting Consent Form:** *Has been completed.*
- 6) **Approval of minutes from September 14, 2017 Meeting:** Motion by Boersma seconded by Tangeman to approve the minutes. Carried 5-0.
- 7) **Wood/Board Sales – Inventory & Tracking:** The current calculation for board feet that we have is around 1000 board feet out at the Racetrack barn. *Hebert* suggested having a wood auction and that we need to keep better track of the materials we have. Other suggestions mentioned: 1) offer wood to the public, 2) sell on-line – Wisconsin Surplus, 3) Craig's List, 4) ask Stoughton Lumber and have a structured sale to the public at the new facility. Will be discussed further at the next meeting.
- 8) **Future Agenda Items:** Stoughton Municipal Zoning Ordinance, wood sales, Tree Tribute Program

Motion by Boersma, seconded by Tangeman to adjourn the meeting at 6:00 p.m. Respectfully submitted 12/6/17,  
Vickie Erdahl - Staff