

Tree Commission Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 14, 2017 at 4:30 PM

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

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

Absent & Excused: Robert Kardasz

Guest: Randy Malmquist, city resident

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:**

- Introductions and short welcome for new members.
- *Hebert* informed the committee that the ash tree wood for the Virgin Lake Boardwalk was going to be sawyered the last week of September and the frame has been put together. This project will be started in October 2017 and if too wet the spring of 2018.
- *Hebert* stated that there would be a fall tree planting of approx. 200 trees and the Forester is working with a nursery for purchase and plant with a one year warranty included. The city lost about 30% of its planting this year. It was suggested that a door hanger for the care of the tree be left when the trees are planted.
- *Boersma* asked about the crabapple trees at Race Track Park and wants the new forester to check and monitor the trees.

2) **Forestry Reports:** *Point* stated that there was cherry wood at the Senior Center that could be taken to Aslesons to be sold. *Point* will be working with *Kemppainen* to supply wood to Aselsons. *Hebert* stated that there will be a storage area for wood at the new facility.

3) **Update on Ord 10-2 (d) Terrace Trees:** *Hebert* stated that the 10-2 Ordinance was attached to Chapter 66 (commercial property) and both have to be changed and submitted together. ***This issue will be placed on the October agenda.***

4) **Discuss and Recommend changes to the Stoughton Municipal Zoning Ordinance: Appendix B:** The Planning Department requested that the Tree Commission review the trees in this ordinance for the purpose of making sure the street trees planted meet the city standards. The Committee stated that all invasive species should be removed. City Forester, *Kemppainen* will review the Ordinance. ***This issue will be placed on the October agenda***

5) **Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Homeowner request @ 1117 Park St to have a Black Walnut Tree @ 220 S Henry St Removed:** The new City Forester, John Kemppainen, visited the site and inspected / evaluated the tree.

Tangeman stated the tree wood, at the most, would be worth \$250.00.

Kemppainen stated the following facts: 1) that there were 41 Black Walnut Trees in the inventory 11 in Parks and 30 in terraces 20 these trees are messy with dropping walnuts and green pollen in the spring

for about 4-6 weeks of year, 2) the tree is in very good condition, 3) Vernon St is being reviewed for reconstruction (possibly in 2018), 4) this tree is close to the curb/gutter and if sidewalks were put in, it would need to be removed, 5) tree needs and could be trimmed back further to help with the debris that is falling into the neighbor's driveway. *Kemppainen's* recommendation was to trim the tree further when the tree is dormant and continue to monitor.

Boersma stated that if the tree was trimmed the new shoots would break easier and if removed when in good health the City would lose the value of the tree from its urban forest, habitat for animals, storm water runoff value and shade that it produces.

Recommended by Boersma, seconded by Bergeson to have city staff trim the tree and continue to monitor. Motion carried 6-0.

- 6) **Review and Recommendations for Private Property Tree Planting Consent Form:** *Hebert* stated that currently developers can have trees planted on private property ten feet behind the sidewalk if the terrace area is insufficient to plant a tree. The city insurer is okay with the city planting on private property with signed consent of the homeowner to protect and hold the city harmless. The Forester/committee is reviewing the current form and making applicable changes.
- 7) **Approval of minutes from August 10, 2017 Meeting:** Motion by Tangeman, seconded by Bergeson to approve the minutes. Carried 6-0.
- 8) **Discussion on Stoughton Utilities - Underground:** TABELLED. Will be discussed at the October meeting.
- 9) **Future Agenda Items:** Stoughton Municipal Zoning Ordinance, Ordinance Chap 66 Private Property Tree Planting and Stoughton Utilities (underground)

Motion by Short, seconded by Tangeman to adjourn the meeting at 5:55 p.m. Respectfully submitted 9/26/17, Vickie Erdahl - Staff