

Tree Commission Meeting Minutes

Thursday, July 19, 2018 at 4:30 PM

Barn @ Racetrack Park, 400 Racetrack Rd, Stoughton

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

Absent & Excused: Nick Yuknis, Kevin Short, Robert Kardasz and Director of Public Works Brett Hebert

Guest:

Staff: City Forester John Kemppainen and Street Department Secretary Vickie Erdahl

Call to order: Bergeson called to order @ 4:45 PM

1) **Communications:**

Kemppainen stated:

- New intern, Caity Lucas from Stevens Point had started and was doing very well.

2) **Forestry Reports:** *Kemppainen* stated :

- 229 trees were planted this spring. More will be planted in the fall, including the sites where trees were removed for road construction
- Completed EAB treatments – lost several more trees
- Prepped Mandt Park for the fair.
- Trimmed approximately 100 trees with clearance issues
- Removed nearly 200 ash trees in Schefelker Park. Clean up will start after removals completed.
- Began review of private hazard tree ordinance legality for upcoming EAB issues. Many trees are already dead and potentially becoming hazardous. Currently the city attorney is reviewing the state statutes.

Boersma inquired as to the compliance on brush pickup. Residents are still placing brush out at incorrect times but it has been getting slowly better. Currently the Public Works Dept. is updating the door tag for 2019.

Tangeman requested that an ash tree in Norse Park on Kriedeman Dr be checked stating there is some kind of an issue with the tree.

At this time it was decided that item # 3 would be moved to the end.

3) **Discussion regarding the Wood Inventory Plan/Pricing:** *Kemppainen* stated that there is one more load of ash in the kiln. The plan was to map and identify the wood in the barn. One corner of the barn was the ash wood for the Virgin Lake Boardwalk.

Bergeson started mapping at the north end of the barn. All members identified the various types of wood in the piles. *Bergeson* also took pictures of the wood and is creating a catalogue which will be sent to the committee for review when completed. *Kemppainen and Lucas* will be taking more accurate measurements to figure the board feet. Most of the wood was in good shape to use for an auction which the committee would like to do so the wood doesn't have to be moved to the new Public Works site.

4) **Discussion for Tree City USA & Growth Award Ideas:** *TABELED* to August meeting.

5) **Approval of minutes from June 14, 2018 Meeting:** Motion by Boersma seconded by Bergeson to approve the minutes. Carried 4-0.

6) **Discussion and Possible Action for Meeting Time:** After a short discussion, the committee decided to change the meeting time from 4:30 PM to 5:00 PM with the meetings still held on the second Thursday of the month.

Motion by Bergeson, seconded by Point seconded to change the meeting time to 5:00 PM starting with the August meeting. Motion carried 4-0.

7) **Discussion and Possible Action – Notification of residents when trees are planted – literature and water bags:** Boersma stated that he received this request to discuss from another Council member. Hebert responded via email (this issue had been discussed and tried previously at the Crabapple Arboretum) stating the following information:

- Some bags worked better than others
- Some didn't work at all
- They must be filled regularly
- The cost is around \$20 per bag
- Who is going to maintain them
- If they aren't filled they act as a water barrier

Currently the Forester notifies residents of upcoming tree planting; after planting and the Forester inspects the site, then a letter is left with instructions on the care and watering of the tree(s).

The committee felt that watering bags were quite expensive and time consuming when we plant 200-300 trees a year.

After a short discussion the committee decided not to use watering bags and felt the current methods were sufficient.

Motion by Bergeson, seconded by Boersma stating the Tree Commission supports the current procedures of the city. Vote was unanimous 4-0.

Sid left the meeting @ 5:37 PM.

8) **Future Agenda Items:** Tree Growth Award Plan, Wood Inventory Plan

Motion by Tangeman, seconded by Point to adjourn the meeting at 6:00 p.m. Respectfully submitted 7/25/18, Vickie Erdahl - Staff