

Tree Commission Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, July 8, 2015 at 4:30 PM

Ed Overland Room at City Hall, 381 E Main, Stoughton, WI

Members Present: Jay Schotzko, Kendall McBroom, Dave Moyer, John Archer and Randy Nelson

Absent & Excused: Kevin Short and Robert Kardasz

Staff: Street Department Secretary Vickie Erdahl

Guests: None

Call to order: Meeting called to order at 4:35 PM by Moyer

- 1) **Communications:** *Nelson* notified the committee about a SCRUFFS Meeting on Tuesday, July 14 at the Dane County Parks Bldg from 9 am to Noon. *Nelson* reported that MSA (web host for tree inventory program) is going to a new format on July 1, 2016 at a cost of \$4,500.00. *Manthe* has requested the money to be in the 2016 budget. Generally the cost for hosting the inventory is \$1,200 yearly. *Nelson* suggested checking into hosting in-house.

Schotzko submitted a letter of resignation from the committee.

- 2) **Forestry Reports:** *Erdahl* stated that a check for \$677.00 was received for the sale of boards from the solar kiln. The resident with the check issue has been contacted and will be resolved.

Moyer reported on the work day for the Crabapple Arboretum stating the following:

- Numerous trees miss-tagged
- Wrong type of bark used to mulch trees
- Depth of bark
- Frost cracks
- Rodent damage
- Fire Blyth (if removed nothing can be planted in that spot)
- 30 % of the trees need to be removed

Moyer stated that the arboretum was moved at the wrong time which is causing long term issues. Trees that leafed out in the spring are now dying. The parks seasonal help need to be trained and supervised. *Moyer* is going to set up a meeting with *John Halverson*, Parks Maintenance Supervisor to discuss.

Moyer would also like to have the next tree commission meeting to be held at the arboretum along with the Street Department Superintendent – *Manthe* and Parks Maintenance Supervisor - *Halverson* in order to develop a plan to restore the Arboretum as soon as possible.

- 3) **Tree Planting Lists:** The Tree Commission would like to revise the list that the Planning Department uses for the point system on landscaping when developers build. *Schotzko* stated that some of the trees listed shouldn't be on the list even if planted on private property. *Moyer* will contact the planning department to discuss changes can be made with little difficulty and to find out if current trees listed are ever suggested for park row planting.

- 4) **Approval of minutes from June 10, 2015 Meeting:** Motion by Archer, seconded by McBroom to approve the minutes. Carried 4-0.

- 5) **Strategies for Tree Diseases:** *Archer* commented that the DNR has good information available in a brochure “*Protect Your Trees from Oak Wilt*” and we should follow the suggestions. Oak Wilt is already a big issue and we need to get a plan in place to handle. *Moyer* suggested having articles published in the Hub once a month to bring awareness to the issues trees are facing. *Moyer* will talk with the Hub and *Archer* will look into writing an article. Also all information on the diseases should be placed somewhere on the web pages of the street department and forestry pages.
- 6) **Reporting on Solar Kiln & Boards:** A \$677.00 check was received from Stoughton High School for the sale of boards dried in the kiln. The school will be purchasing a second load of boards. Currently drying in the kiln is “Tree of Heaven” and cherry wood. The street department will pay the sawyer for the tree donation funds. The committee was also develop a written plan to divide the funds – when necessary- as the goal the this group would like to achieve is offer a scholarship to someone entering the forestry field.
- 7) **Information for Website:** Many of the tree and forestry web pages have very old information or links that have been changed and not update. *Erdahl* will be deleting old links and committee members will be submitting links and information to be posted. Suggested links www.treesaregood.gov or www.treebenefits.com to show the value of trees and sites listed from the bug diseases from *Archer*. This will be a continuous project.
- 8) **Carving Event Future:** The committee feels we should not hold another event in the near future but perhaps the Senior Center could get a booth at the craft fair to sell their items and also highlight the solar kiln and the TreeCycle Program. *Asleson’s* has yet to bill for the tent – *Erdahl* will contact them and request an invoice.
- 9) **Future Agenda Items:** Tree Planting List, Information for/on Website, Crabapple Arboretum Update, Hub article, Tree City USA points, Solar Kiln

Motion by *Schotzko* seconded by *McBroom* to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 p.m. Respectfully submitted 7/15/15,
Vickie Erdahl - Staff