

Tree Commission Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 8, 2016 at 4:30 PM

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

Members Present: Dean Tangeman, Kendall McBroom and Sid Boersma

Absent & Excused: Robert Kardasz, Keith Kvalheim and Kevin Short

Staff: Street Department Secretary Vickie Erdahl Forester Randy Nelson

Guests: Public Works Director, Brett Hebert

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

1) **Communications:**

Discussion on a bucket truck failure accident outside of town involving a private tree service.

2) **Forestry Reports:** Reports were ok. *Nelson* discussed boards sold at Asleson's and their donation to the Tree Commission fund. The solar kiln needs to be emptied and more boards need to be delivered to Aslesons.

The Stoughton Fair (FFA) would like the kiln on display.

Amy from Stoughton High School would like to attend a Tree Commission meeting. Amy will be sent an agenda for the July meeting.

Hebert started a discussion on the mulch pile at Race Track Park as the pile is so large and needs to be dealt with in a different way. Suggestions included: 1) reduce area and have a bunker, 2) take some to the Yard Waste site for people to take, 3) haul to place where the yard waste is taken to. Also discussed is more ways to recycle wood when trees are removed and now that EAB is here there will be even more wood. If this becomes a possibility the wood would need to be cut into more manageable pieces.

3) **Update on Arbor Day Schools & Events:** Schools had many different contacts so Erdahl will update the contact sheets. Committee members stated their visits went well with the schools. An Arbor Day event was held at Westview Ridge Park on April 22nd. A Regal Prince Oak tree was planted and the solar kiln was also on site to view. A short tree trimming class was held and materials distributed to residents who attended the class.

4) **Progress Update on Planting Lists/Sec 78-611:** *Tabled to July meeting. Work is still in progress.*

5) **Update on Street Tree Installation Sec 10-2 / Occupancy Permit:** The street tree installation has been changed to Terrace Tree – Section 10-2 Construction Standard – Chapter 10-2 (d). The Council passed the changes (O-7-2016) at the May 10, 2016 meeting. The fees the developer needs to pay to have trees installed and inspected before receiving an occupancy permit were increased to \$350.00 per tree. Most properties need two trees, however, there are instances when three trees would be required. *Erdahl* will update the necessary forms and notify Steve Kittelsons' office.

6) **Update on Emerald Ash Borer:** *Hebert* provided a sample Request for Proposal from another community that the City of Stoughton will be using as a template to develop an RFP. The plan will probably span over a three year period.

Nelson stated that he started treating 88 parkrow Ash trees that were treated two years ago but the treatment has been increased this year since EAB was found throughout the city. *Nelson* also stated that several trees that were treated previously had the borer so will now be removed.

7) **Approval of minutes from April 13, 2016 Meeting:** Motion by Boersma, seconded by McBroom to approve the minutes. Carried 3-0.

8) **Discussion on Succession Plan for Wood Lot in Lowell Park along Milwaukee St:** The Committee discussed the wood lot stating that it was basically a stand of poplars in poor soil and felt that it was in need of trimming and some tree removal but did not feel that this area was at the end of its' life cycle.

There are definitely some hazards that need to be addressed along with brush clean up and clearing of walk paths. The committee also discussed the idea of changing the area and developing prairie (suggested in an email received); stating it was not a good idea and that prairies are expensive to develop and maintain.

Committee directed staff to draft a succession plan for the woods located near Lowell Park and forward to the Public Works Committee.

9) **Future Agenda Items:** Update on Terrace Tree Ord., RFP for EAB, funding/collection – hazardous private trees

Motion by McBroom, seconded by Boersma to adjourn the meeting at 5:55 p.m. Respectfully submitted 6/10/16, Vickie Erdahl - Staff