

## Tree Commission Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, August 10, 2016 at 4:30 PM

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

**Members Present:** Kevin Short, Dean Tangeman, Keith Kvalheim, Kendall McBroom and Sid Boersma

**Absent & Excused:** Robert Kardasz

**Staff:** Street Department Secretary Vickie Erdahl Forester Randy Nelson

**Guests:**

**Call to order:** Meeting called to order at 4:35 PM by Short

### 1) **Communications:**

*Nelson* stated that he had attended the WAA Summer Conference and is enrolled in the Tree Risk Assessment Qualifications Seminar. *Tangeman* stated the course would help with prioritizing tree removals.

### 2) **Forestry Reports:** *Nelson* discussed tree & construction issues on Van Buren St where trees were fenced to protect them. Construction crews took down the fence and the trees were destroyed and the homeowners want the city to take responsibility. Also there were multiple issues on Kings Lynn Rd with construction and trees being damaged. **This issue will be on September's agenda to discuss and make recommendations to change the construction contracts.**

*Nelson* also mentioned that there would be a training event (on bugs & diseases) at the EMS Bldg. on Tuesday, October 4 from 8:00 A to 3:00 P. The cost is \$35.00 per person and would be covered by the city. Multiple members were interested in attending.

A log will also be developed to track any trees that the city needs to plant due to a homeowner or developer depositing monies for trees on new properties.

### 3) **Update on Terrace Tree Installation / Occupancy Permit:** A log is being developed to track the payment, planting and refunding of deposits to the developers when completed. There will be a separate log for tree that developers would like the city to plant on their behalf. *Nelson* inspected the tree plantings for the Arnett development.

### 4) **Update on Emerald Ash Borer (RFP):** *Hebert* will be finishing the RFP for the removal of public ash trees with a two year plan for the parkrow trees and a tree year plan for trees in the Parks. *Nelson* has been asked to review the plan when completed.

### 5) **Update on Wood Lot Plan:** *Nelson* stated that a crew has removed multiple leaning trees, done crown reduction on other trees and done cleanup of debris on the ground from the east and north boundaries of the area creating a "defensive barrier". Some of the trees in this wood lot are in an excess of 100 feet tall. *Nelson* is still not sure of the size of this lot but there is more work that could be done, however also stating that it might be more beneficial to be working in other Parks.

### 6) **Approval of minutes from June 8, 2016 Meeting:** Motion by Boersma, seconded by Kvalheim to approve the minutes. Carried 5-0.

- 7) **Discussion on Funding / Collection for Hazardous Private Tree (s)**: The Department of Public Works Director will be bringing the issue of funding for private tree dilemmas up for discussion in the city budget meeting as the Forester keeps receiving calls on private trees.

The Committee feels the city should not be involved or even look at trees that are private or in back yard, stating the homeowners should resolve their own conflicts.

*Nelson* is asking for guidance on how to handle this situation as it comes up periodically, he currently has four Elm trees that he has been requested to look at stating that he is directed to per different city ordinances. *Nelson* stated that he has poised this question to SCRUFFS to see how other communities are dealing with the issue. Questions are how costly could this situation be, should the ordinances be changed and what is considered public – needs to be defined.

- 8) **Future Agenda Items**: Construction Contracts, EAB RFP, Lowell Park – (Poplar Meadow)

**Motion by Tangeman, seconded by McBroom to adjourn the meeting at 6:05 p.m. Respectfully submitted 8/15/16, Vickie Erdahl - Staff**