

## Tree Commission Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, December 14, 2016 at 4:30 PM

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

**Members Present:** Kevin Short, Keith Kvalheim and Sid Boersma

**Absent & Excused:** Robert Kardasz, Dean Tangeman and Kendall McBroom

**Staff:** Public Works Director Brett Hebert, Street Department Secretary Vickie Erdahl & Forester Randy Nelson

**Call to order:** Meeting called to order by Short @ 4:30 PM

### 1) **Communications:**

- *Nelson* 1) reported that Aselson's is requesting more wood 2) Your Family Magazine printed an article on Stoughton's wood recycling and the Wisconsin Urban Wood Program. 3) List of trees with EAB was developed, field verified and marked with white paint for removal.
- *Boersma* would like to explore purchasing property near the new Public Works facility for wood storage. **Placed on January agenda.**
- *Hebert & Nelson* discussed a situation at 708 Roby Rd where a house is under construction by McBrien Homes. A street tree permit was paid for but it was decided that only two trees needed to be purchased as there were three mature street trees on the property. On Saturday, Dec. 10, 2016 when out plowing *Nelson* observed that one of the trees had been cut down and was laying on the property. The tree in question was an 18" Red Maple with a value of \$ 2,472.00. The tree was removed without a permit which is a violation of the city ordinance. The committee feels there should be a precedent set and the builder should be held liable.
- *Hebert* stated that a tree pruning class sponsored by CVMIC with Ranger Services as the instructors is scheduled for Jan 5, 2017 from 8 am – 4 pm at the EMS building.

2) **Forestry Reports:** *Short* was discussing the tree pruning on Jackson St as these trees bare root plantings. *Nelson* stated that 35% of the trees lost was due to weed whacker damages and suggested that public works invest in plastic barriers. *Short* also commented that the trees on Main St were in need of maintenance due to girdling roots and tree grates

3) **Update on Ordinance 10-2 (d) – Terrace Trees:** Public Works did not have a meeting in November and Hebert wanted to wait until the committee reviewed the Ord and will report back to Tree Commission in January of 2017.

4) **Update - Construction Bids – Tree Protection:** *Hebert* presented a "draft" Work Zone Tree Protection policy. Brett would like the committee to review and bring to the January meeting suggestions. Several suggestions were made at the current meeting such as 1) define materials that can be used to cover roots 2) add driveway apron to section for sidewalk and carriage construction 3) be reasonable about trees, when evaluating, if the tree is worth saving and 4) define root cutting tools.

5) **Approval of minutes from November 9, 2016 Meeting:** Motion by Boersma, seconded by Kvalheim to approve the minutes. Carried 3-0.

6) **Tree Selections:** The city is stressing diversity at this time and after a short discussion the committee felt that the city has too many Acer's (Maples) of any type and think the acer's should be removed, for the time being, from the recommended tree list. Staff to check on line posting of the tree list.

**Motion by Short, seconded by Boersma to recommend the removal of the genus "Acer" from the recommended trees selection list. Motion carried 3-0.**

7) **Discussion on Scholarship Program:** Some suggestions to begin the process of writing the grant - 1) Areas of schooling forestry, planning or agriculture 2) in state school 3) two smaller scholarships 4) give money at time of registration and 5) invite Ann Cook from the high school to help us determine which direction to go. Placed on January agenda.

8) **Wood Storage Site Location:** *Boersma* stated that he brought the need for a wood storage site to the attention of the Public Works to be discussed. The locations *Boersma* requested to review were: the new Public Works Facility, Business Park North or if someone had an idea as to where there was a suitable place.

9) **Future Agenda Items:** Wood Storage, Scholarship Program, Ord 10-2 Language changes, Tree Protection Zone, Ord 64-14 – Street trees changes

**Motion by Kvalheim, seconded by Short to adjourn the meeting at 5:30 p.m. Respectfully submitted 12/21/16, Vickie Erdahl - Staff**