

Meeting was held Tuesday January 11 at 4 pm, in the Municipal Building Main Conference Room (3rd floor).

Attendance: Tom Mills, Brian Bauman, Jane Ebersole, Kellie Bibler (participating on telephone link), Tim Brugeman, Jeremy Kalb, Dave Honse. Absent: Ed Crawford, Rob Martin, AJ Copus.

Welcome & Happy New Year by Tom. Introductions were made by all, with Kellie and Jane recently appointed by the Mayor. A third member will be joining us soon to fill out the Tree Commission vacancies. Brian is now on City Council and recent discussions with Mayor and Council will allow him to continue to serve, have a vote, and now also serve as the City Council representative to FSTC.

Minutes from 11/9/2021 meeting were distributed. While there was no quorum for an official meeting, notes indicate some discussion of year end business. Tim moved, Brian seconded, Minutes approved.

Financial Report New Format developed, distributed. Dave gave credit to Robin DPW for new, easy to read and report budget format. Dave reviewed how FSTC expenses are handled; the 2022 Budget allowance is \$5,300, part of Public Works Department general accounts. Income received from Tree Commission programs (Adopt-A-Tree or NeighborWoods) are deposited into the City's general fund and not available as additional funds. Discussion of how this year's funds can be used (tree plantings, training, misc. materials) will continue as planning and costs are developed.

Time Tracking discussed; 2022 time sheets distributed. Tom mentioned the importance of listing individual hours on Tree Commission projects, meetings, including driving time, to be part of Tree City USA re-certification. Emails, reading/ preparation time for meetings, and Tree City USA Awards event of May can all be used.

Program Schedule for 2022 (tentative) distributed, as a guide, with meetings, suggested planting project dates and other deadlines, Arbor Day and Tree City USA Awards event. As planning by the committees proceed, final dates will be listed as known. Suggestions for other activities welcomed.

Reports:

- **City Council Representative** – Brian: Just appointed, no report at this time.
- **Service Safety Director** – Rob: No report.
- **Public Works Department (PWD)** – Dave would like to replace some trees this spring on Main Street and other sites at CR 236 and Brookside Drive that have died. Some additional trees could also be planted at Swale Park.
- **Engineering Department** – Jeremy: Future projects in the planning will include new trees along the Bikepath extending east from Bright Road Bridge. The next flood mitigation work areas near Downtown will use a recent \$5000 tree planting grant by The Community Foundation (TCF). Both projects are expected for 2023. Brian mentioned the Mayor asks for Flowering Cherry Trees along the river for the TCF funds.

Old Business:

- **Findlay's 2021 Tree City USA recertification application accepted**, as submitted by Kathy Launder. The recognition will be received in Findlay May 11 at the NW Ohio Awards Event. Thanks to all for the information provided, progress in 2021 and especially to Kathy for the final application.
- **NW Ohio 2022 Tree City USA Awards Event.** Tim gave overview to new members of event May 11 at the Fairgrounds. Findlay is a host with the Villages of Arcadia, Ottawa and University of Findlay in cooperation with the ODNR Division of Forestry. A TCUSA Awards Event committee meets regularly and is on schedule; mailings will go out first of March. Tree Commission members are asked to help that day (registration, breakfast / lunch, cleanup) as well as set up at the Old Mill Stream Centre the afternoon before. This is the first time in 3 years (due to the pandemic) the event has been held; 200+/- participants are expected.

New Business:

The first meeting of the year is our organizational meeting. Discussion by all was held on officers, committee assignments, and meetings.

- **Officers and assignments agreed** as follows:
Brian Bauman – Chair, Tom Mills-Vice Chair, Tim Brugeman – Secretary
Jane Ebersole will serve as Arbor Day Coordinator with Chamberlin Hill School (2022 designated site).
Kellie Bibler to serve as FSTC Tech / Media Coordinator
Tom & Brian to handle NeighborWoods Program
Tim to handle Fall Planting / Adopt-A-Tree Program (hoping for co-chair)
- **Monthly meetings** at this point will continue the first Tuesday of the month, but Brian will check with members for a more convenient day and time rather than the 4 pm usual time slot which has not allowed some to attend.
- It was noted a recent change in the Ohio open public meetings requirements (aka "Sunshine" law) now requires all votes at a meeting, not by phone or ZOOM.
- Tom and Brian will get a new roster of all FSTC members/ others as a contact list.
- Tom will get with Jane to catch up with Arbor Day program plans to date.
- Notebooks for new members were distributed with shirts.

Next meeting will be Tuesday, February 1; time to be confirmed or with changes as needed.

With no further business, meeting was adjourned at 5:05 pm.

Submitted by
Tim Brugeman

1/13/2022 Third appointment confirmed, welcome Haley!
Haley Belisle, 113 W. Hobart Avenue, Findlay OH 45840