

Findlay Shade Tree Commission (FSTC) Meeting #3 Minutes Mar 30, 2023

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Meeting was held Thursday March 30 at 11:35 am, in the Municipal Building Large Conference Room (3rd floor).

Attendance: Brian Bauman, Jane Ebersole, Haley Belisle, AJ Copus, Dave Honse, Jeremy Kalb, and Rick Watson. Also in attendance was Michael Tharp, residing at 320 E Hardin Street, who is interested in tree plantings in regard to the tree lawn.

Welcome: Brian (Chairman) thanked everyone for attending.

Minutes: Minutes were distributed for the February meeting and reviewed with no changes. Brian moved, Haley seconded motion to approve, vote unanimous.

Financial Report: Brian distributed report for review.

Discussion

- In order to meet quorum, this month's meeting is scheduled for March 30th and will also combine the April meeting. Next meeting for FSTC is May 4th, 2023.
- Tree City Awards will take place Tuesday May 9th in Wauseon.

Reports

- **City Council Representative** – Brian: Updated Ordinance will revise the requirements for tree planting distance from water lines.
- **Public Works Department (PWD)** – AJ and Dave: The Green Waste Site will be opening soon. PWD described the Memorial Tree Planting Program and answered questions from Members. Citizens can call to request a memorial tree planted in one of our local parks by April 18th.
- **Engineering Department** – Jeremy: Tree clearing for Greenway Trail starts March 31st. Bright Road/568 will have a screen of trees by next year as 20 or more trees will be planted.

Old Business

- **The Commission discussed and reviewed the draft Ordinance.** It was noted that the current language of 913.05 Tree Regulations Part C.4. (pg. 5) could invoke liabilities to the City as Public Works and tree removal equipment would be on private property. Suggestion to remove referral to Public Works. Also discussed was information regarding minimums for boulevard plantings that was present in previous Ordinance and not in the current draft. It was discussed that this information would be helpful to have placed in the Ordinance. Also discussed was Part J of 913.05 Tree Regulations (pg. 7) and how some of the distances increased. Part J.4. increased from 4 ft to 5 ft, Part J.5. increased from 10 ft to 50 ft, and Part J.6. increased from 25 ft to 50 ft. Discussion if these increases are necessary or if they are overly restricting planting. Also discussed was Part J.8, which used to include a distance requirement of 25 ft from overhead utility wire in the past and if this would be helpful to include in the updated Ordinance.
- **Still reviewing changes to the magnet order with support of the draft.**

New Business

- Michael Tharp had trees removed from his residence at 320 E Hardin Street and is interested in the distance requirements for new trees to be planted. Michael is looking for trees to provide shade and a screen of privacy in front of his home, but is limited by the size of the blvd and nearby underground utilities. He noted that his residence is a historical house. Brian and PWD discussed options with Michael, set up follow-up, and included him on the Adopt-a-Tree list.
- **Adopt-A-Tree** – Most applicants have been reviewed and OUPS discussed. North Branch Nursery noted that field trees will need to be ordered next week and that pot-in-pot's can be purchased anytime. The quote for field trees will be obtained this week to allow for as much time as possible for the nursery to retrieve them. The remaining unfinished applicants will receive trees from the pot-in-pot list and will be included in the quote next week. Event will take place Saturday April 22nd.

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- **NeighborWoods** – Working with St. Johns Lutheran Church to select type of tree for event. Plan for May or June event.
- **Arbor Day** – Event will take place on April 21st at Wilson Vance. The students have voted for a red maple.
- **FSTC Banners** need updated and possibly need a new graphic.

With no further business, Brian adjourned the meeting at 12:32 pm.

April meeting in canceled.

Next meeting will be Thursday May 4 at 11:30 am in Municipal Building. Submitted by Haley Belisle.