

WELLSBORO SHADE TREE COMMISSION

JANUARY 16, 2012

MINUTES

Howard Rutledge called the meeting of the Wellsboro Shade Tree Commission to order on January 16, 2012 at 7:01 pm in the council room of the John E Dugan Fire Station/Municipal Building. The Pledge of Allegiance was said by all present.

ATTENDANCE: The Shade Tree members present were Howard Rutledge, Pete Herres, Scott Nichols, Robert McCarthy and Vicki Fox. Also in attendance was the Borough Manager Dan Strausser.

MINUTES: The minutes from October 17, 2012 were approved as written. Pete Herres made the motion to accept and Robert McCarthy 2nd. The minutes were passed and put into record.

COMMENT PERIOD: Dan Strausser, Borough Manager, is in favor of trees. He had started a memorial program where he previously was a manager and the trees were purchased by the residents and planted by the boy scouts. He had also acquired a few grants for planting trees.

Peter Herres commented that the general population is in favor of planting trees. There was an outrage when we cut down the Callery Pears in front of the Bilo Plaza. The trees were dropping limbs without warning.

Dan Strausser will be attending meetings and will keep the Council informed on issues.

Pete commented that the Council seems to be supportive of what we are doing. The ordinance needs to be updated though. They had rewritten it once before but didn't get far with it.

Dan Strausser then asked if they were involved in subdivisions.

Howard Rutledge reported that they did ask when the zoning ordinance was updated, that they include the shade tree commission, especially if it is a new development or large hardscape. We have seen plans from Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hospital, Penn Wells and First Citizens.

Dan Strausser stated that they have a subdivision coming up for townhouses. If approved he will make sure they see the plans. Scott Bray will be reviewing plans also. Pete stated

that we usually give approvals or disapproval within ten days of reviewing the plans and have scheduled special meetings to do so.

BARE ROOT PROGRAM: Pete reported that they have 20 free trees coming and should arrive around April but due to the lack of winter it may be earlier and we will have to be prepared. He wanted to know if we wanted to plant anymore trees. He reminded the commission that there was a request that trees be planted on Charleston Street near the bridge by Kevin Borden's property. No one was sure how the new alignment of the bridge would be but Mark Dieffenbach said that he had that information. They would replace the trees that WECO had to take down. Pete also wanted the members of the commission to take a look at Sturrock Street to see if we wanted to plant trees there. There was some storm water work done there and it is pretty void of trees. There is no curbing on that street and Mary Carson has roped her property off to keep cars off it and probably welcome trees being planted there. There is a Hendrix line there and the trees would have to be a medium height. Vicki Fox stated that there wasn't a lot of space there with no curbing. Another spot would be on the Grant Street side of the hospital from Central to Meade Street and possibly the next block up from there. We could easily plant 4-5 trees in the St. Peters Church area. Soldiers and Sailors had planted several trees in their green space. Vinny Controne will be sending the list of available trees by the end of January and we will have to make decisions before the next meeting on what we want. We have budgeted for twenty more trees. Scott Nichols wanted a couple weeks notice so he could get the backhoe on. Howard asked if we still wanted the Borough Crew to prep the holes and it was decided that they should and have Scott still be there with his backhoe to dig more if needed. We never know how the bare tree roots will be. A lot of the holes have been more oval. They will stake out the possible locations and if the resident doesn't want it there we will move on. Pa One Calls will be made. Dan Strausser will also notify the Council of the locations.

TREE CITY USA: The application has been submitted electronically. The forestry department has notified Pete that they have received it. He expects that we will be awarded Tree USA again this year. He also thanked WECO for the work they have done.


SPRING STUMP PROGRAM: Peter Herres reported that there are between 25-30 stumps around town. We could do some in the front yards if requested from the landowner. We contract from Asplundh Tree Service and pay them by the hour. Howard and Pete go out and measure the stumps and use a formula to come up with the individual cost. Dan Strausser suggested that they get signed releases from the owners. Pete stated that most of the stumps removed are in the right of way. We usually send out post cards with the costs and if they want it done they send a check in along with the post card.

TREE PRUNING: Pete Herres requested that the public works crew and garbage truck identify any trees that they are having trouble getting under to the commission so that they can have them pruned up professionally. Dan Strausser will get with Mark Dieffenbach to get list including street and house address. There was also a suggestion made that one or two members of the crew be properly trained to prune trees. Sight clearance on signs should also be looked at.

PERMIT: None

ADJOURN: Meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm. Motion made by Peter Herres and 2nd by Scott Nichols.

Respectfully submitted by:


Teresa Marshall
Water & Sewer Clerk