

WELLSBORO SHADE TREE COMMISSION

FEBRUARY 20, 2012

MINUTES

The meeting of the Wellsboro Shade Tree Commission, was called to order by Howard Rutledge in the Council Room, of the John E Dugan Fire Station/Municipal Building at 7:02 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was said by all present.

ATTENDANCE: Howard Rutledge, Vicki Fox, Peter Herres and Scott Nichols from the Shade Commission. Robert McCarthy Jr. absent. Daniel Strausser: Borough Manager.

MINUTES: Peter Herres made the motion to accept the minutes from January 16, 2012 as written and Vicki Fox 2nd. Passed.

Daniel Strausser brought in the list of trees for pruning.

BARE ROOT PLANTING PLAN: A list of locations for the trees and their species were provided for review. The costs would be around \$1,219.00 for 17 trees. Twenty of the trees were paid for by a grant. Scott Nichols made the motion to approve the planting plan and Vicki Fox 2nd. They did look at Sturrock Street and Charleston Street but decided not to plant in either area. A bridge is being replaced on Charleston Street and they decided to wait until that was done before they would look at it again. There is a storm sewer going down Sturrock Street and there would be no room for planting. They are saving some money to plant trees in front of Timeless Destination.

TOPPED TREES: There were five Spruce trees that were topped by a utility company that needed to be taken down at the Borough maintenance building. A permit was issued and approved. Peter Herres made the motion to accept the permit and Scott Nichols 2nd. There will be trees planted back in.

STREET TREE CONFLICTS: A list was compiled on trees throughout the Borough that need pruning. Scott Nichols will take care of his tree in front of his property. Howard Rutledge and Peter Herres will go around and take a look at the sites and prioritize the locations. Pete suggested having one or two people from the Borough sent to an arborist school to get certified for pruning. He also brought up the fact the equipment would also be needed either as being bought or leased. He will get the information together and present a plan to Daniel Strausser to take in front of Council. We do have an ordinance that makes it the property owners' responsibility to take care of their own trees. There is some money to prune the trees that need to be done right away.

STUMP PROGRAM: A motion to proceed with the stump program with the financial responsibility being the home owners was made by Scott Nichols and 2nd by Vicki Fox.

Measurements of stumps will be taken and costs will be figured out. This will be included in a letter sent to the homeowner. If they decide to participate, they will notify us and a list will be given to the contractor.

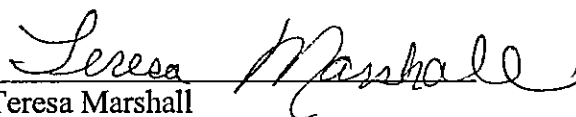
TREE LAWNS VS. VEHICLE PARKING: Our tree lawns are disappearing due to these areas being turned into parking spaces for renters or property owners. Austin Street, Riberolle St and Sturrock Street were examples given. Borough Manager Daniel Strausser also has a complaint from a resident concerning stone being placed in front of his property instead of grass from a project that was done earlier. It is harder to plant trees if we keep losing tree lawn areas. Vicki Fox also brought up the fact that people were parking on Pearl Street once parking meters were installed on Charles Street. There was also a discussion of landscaping being placed in the right of way.

OTHER BUSINESS: Arbor Day is around the corner. We will have to be ready to plant trees when they come in. Pa One Calls need to be placed as 90 day design work after the stakes are placed.

Borough Manager Daniel Strausser reported that there will be a newsletter called "Wellsboro Happenings" coming in May. If they want anything in it, the deadline would be the end of March. Tioga Publishing will be doing the printing. One suggestion was the maintenance of tree rings. They would be willing to provide a few bags of mulch for the trees that the Shade Tree Commission planted and there will be a description on how the mulch should be placed.

Peter Herres made the motion to adjourn and Vicki Fox 2nd. Meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm.

The minutes were respectfully submitted by


Teresa Marshall