

WELLSBORO SHADE TREE COMMISSION

MINUTES

JANUARY 17, 2011

The meeting of the Wellsboro Shade Tree Commission was called to order, by Chairman Rutledge, on January 17, 2011 in the Council Room of the John E Dugan Fire Station/Municipal Building. The Pledge of Allegiance was said by all present.

ROLL CALL: Those present were Howard Rutledge, Peter Herres, Vick Fox and Scott Nichols. Bob McCarthy Jr. was absent.

MINUTES: The minutes from December 20, 2010 were approved with one correction. This was in the Penn Wells Motel Planting Plan. The trees being taken out were black locust in front instead of black walnut. Pete also mentioned the spelling of budget. Peter made the motion with the correction and Vicki 2nd. Passed.

SPRING BARE ROOT PLANTING LOCATIONS: They still haven't seen the list of trees that will be available but Pete thought it would be about the middle of January. Howard suggested looking at the ash on East Avenue. A couple of them have already been taken out. The ash will eventually die. Peter suggested that they should be allowed to run their course and Vicki agreed. Scott Nichols told the committee that it would take three to four years before the tree would die. The first year you probably wouldn't notice it because the decline would be in the top of the tree. It would be the second year before you would start to see the decline. On the third year, $\frac{3}{4}$ of the top of the tree would be dead and leaves would be falling off. The quarantine for ash trees may be extended. There have been no new sightings. New York State had some sightings but they may have been there for four years. The rest areas along major highways are where they are found mostly and they will lands on cars and travel from rest stop to rest stop. On their own, the Emerald Ash Boar can only travel a mile a year. They don't have a normal life cycle. It depends on the temperature as to how their cycle goes. They can't spray for something you don't know when it is coming out.

Pete suggested that trees be planted near the old Borden Plant to the Borough line. There is space for approximately 10 trees. It may be a little tricky because it is a bank instead of a flat surface. The upper part of Jackson Street may also be an area of interest. The Enhancement Study noted that upper Jackson Street was void of trees. There were a lot of trees taken out there.

CASTO LETTER: A letter was sent to Mr. & Mrs. Casto of 71 Pearl Street concerning a tree that was improperly pruned and done without a permit. The way it was pruned, the tree will sucker out and produce weak branches making it a hazardous tree especially when there is an early snow or heavy winds. Peter did hear from Mr. Casto, who gave

Martin Ostopovich's name as the person that did the pruning. Mr. Casto was looking at getting the tree pruned because it had become too large. Vicki said that Mr. Casto had done some removals by the fence area and she thought that maybe he was the one who did the pruning. The maple was shaped like the Bradford Pears on Main Street. A motion was made to send a letter of reprimand to Mr. Ostopovich stating that this particular project was not done to ANSI current pruning standards and that it was done without a permit. The motion was made by Vicki Fox to send a letter and it was 2nd by Scott Nichols. The ordinance states that a fine of \$25.00 plus cost of replacement of tree could be imposed. In some of the other model ordinances for shade trees had the fine running between \$250.00 and \$500.00.

DINCHER & DINCHER: Pete has called Bernie Dincher last month to give him the go ahead to do the pruning on Main Street and the parking lots. He should be in sometime in January between a Sunday and Tuesday when there is less traffic because of the need to block off areas to do the pruning.

FOREST TENT CATEPILLAR: Matt Sampson will still be doing the study on the caterpillar. He is waiting to hear from another person for the go ahead. There will be a two to three day lead in time to get the bucket truck from WECO. They have done a study in Potter County. There were very few eggs left. They did, however, spray that area last year. Another reason for this could be that the cycle is collapsing.

ADJOURN: The meeting was adjourned. Scott Nichols made the motion and Vicki Fox 2nd.

The minutes were respectfully submitted by Teresa Marshall