

# WELLSBORO SHADE TREE COMMISSION

## MINUTES

JUNE 20, 2011

The meeting of the Wellsboro Shade Tree Commission was called to order by Howard Rutledge, Chairman of the Shade Tree Commission 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 and Scott Nichols. Those absent were Vicki Fox and Robert McCarthy Jr.

MINUTES: The minutes from April 18, 2011 were approved as written. Peter Herres made the motion to accept and Scott Nichols 2<sup>nd</sup>. Passed.

COMMENT PERIOD: There were none given.

MAIN STREET TREE REMOVAL: There is a property above Dr. Black's residence that has a dead tree. Howard suggested that a letter be written to the homeowner concerning the tree and offer them a 50/50 split on costs if there is money in the budget to do so. WECO took care of a tree that came down on Waln Street during the storm. Pete will take a look at the budget. A motion was made to do the 50/50 split with the homeowner to take the hazardous tree down pending on if there are enough funds in the budget to do so. The motion to do the 50/50 split pending on funding was made by Peter Herres and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Scott Nichols. It was passed.

INFESTATION ON WEST AVE: Pete contacted Matt Sampson, who was out of town in Albany, concerning the worms on the trees at West End Apartments. He took pictures and sent them to Matt to identify the species. Matt contacted Pete and told him that they were a type of sawfly and that they were host specific and wouldn't be a danger to the other trees. Seven would also kill them. Howard wondered where they came from or why they cleaned the bushes. Scott Nichols said that they usually went after evergreens. Pete will call Putman Company and tell them the Commission's findings and also tell them that Seven will kill them.

TREE RINGS: Pete reported that we are slowly losing the tree rings around the trees that were planted. Some of the property owners are not doing enough mulching. He thought that he would have help with the Probation Program that was being offered but it became a Union problem. The Union would not allow Mark to have any more than two probation people. These crews usually have two supervisors and three to four people and they didn't want to split them up. This may end the project he was planning. We still need to address the situation though. We could either subcontract out or have some of the high school students do the work. Pete did send his guys out to cut the suckers off a lot of the

trees. There is grass growing up around the base of these trees and much of the mulch ring is gone. One of the suggestions was to have a mulch program. We would bag up about thirty pounds of mulch and have residents call in to get a bag for each tree. The bags could be picked up at the office or he could even deliver it to the site of the tree for the property owner to put on. It was suggested that maybe a postcard be sent out to the residents with the trees to tell them about the mulch rings or even put it on the water bill. Pete would like to make a diagram on how the mulch should go in the ring. This would help prevent lawn mowers or string trimmers from getting too close to the base of the tree. Pete also brought up spraying around the tree with round up to kill the grass, draw the ring and then it could be mulched. Scott Nichols uses a backpack sprayer to spray around his trees. Pete thought that spraying was better than using a sod cutter and risking cutting some of the root system.

**KNOXVILLE BOROUGH:** Pete was contacted by Gene Seeley from Knoxville concerning the trees that had come down from the F1 tornado. They were looking for assistance on how to get more trees. Pete and some of the Committee members would be glad to attend a meeting with them and give them suggestions on how to start up as they did with Mansfield Borough. They would need to have an ordinance in place, a work plan and a commission to apply for grants. They would also need to get rid of the stumps. They could also contact Steve Hoover for suggestions also. Blossburg had trees come down but they have already cleaned up and have an active Shade Tree Commission.

**PERMITS:** Trinity Luthern Parsonage -- 146 West Ave -- Dead Maple for removal. Scott Nichols made the motion to accept the application and Peter Herres 2<sup>nd</sup>. Put into record.

**ADJOURN:** The motion to adjourn was made by Scott Nichols and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Peter Herres.

The minutes were respectfully submitted by Teresa Marshall

TOKARZ TREE SERVICE  
252 BENAUER ROAD  
WELLSBORO, PA 16901  
570-724-1477

EST.  
DATE: 4/17/08

TO: Boro of Wellsboro  
Shade Tree Comm.

DETACH AND RETURN UPPER PORTION WITH YOUR REMITTANCE \$

	cut down 2 large Maple Trees clean up debris 66 wain str.	
	grind 2 stumps no clean up	
	Mike Tokarz	975.00
		<u>975.00</u>