

Shade Tree Commission Meeting Minutes

September 8, 2025

Council Chairman Scott Nichols called the regular meeting to order at 8:33AM in the Council Meeting Room of the Borough Office at 14 Crafton Street. The pledge of allegiance was recited by all.

Attending were Council Members Brian Kennedy, Vicki Fox, Tyler Upham, Borough Manager Louis Rachiele, Administrative Assistant Tiffany Thomas, Parks & Recreation crew Brett Mengée, and Arborist Mike White.

Council Member Brian Kennedy made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 9th, 2025 meeting. The motion was seconded by Vicki Fox and carried.

Public Comments on Agenda Items – None

Fall Planting Plan – Paperwork was shown to Council Members of recommended trees for planting. There will be a total of 20 trees coming. The London Plains tree was recommended for in front of Dunkin Donuts in place of the Callery Pears.

September 24th Education Sessions – Council Member Brian Kennedy did a walk thru of Wellsboro with Vincent Cotrone (Penn State Extension) and Emily Shosh (Dept. of Conservation & Natural Resources) which ended in the Community Tree Roundtable to be offered on September 24th at the Deane Center from 12PM-3PM for Municipalities to attend, and also the Tree Care Basics Seminar also on September 24th at the Deane Center from 6:30PM-8PM for community members to attend. Flyers were made and posted in the Borough Office. Flyers were also given to the WASD to grades K-6 for home distribution. Mike White from Tree Master's will also be present at these sessions to answer questions. These seminars go along with our Canopy Grant. Council Member Tyler Upham has also advertised these seminars on the Conservation Site.

Tree Inventory Work Agreement – The work agreement was handed out and viewed by Council Members. Ethan West will be working with Allen Reed on this project. They are in the process of doing inventory. Parks & Recreation crew member Brett Mengée took tree information from Google Maps and put into Treekeeper which is a program through DCNR.

DCNR Canopy Grant – Council Member Brian Kennedy gave update on the Canopy Grant. Mike White was approved by DCNR to do assessments of trees. Next step is to do bids, but first Council Member Brett Kennedy needs to get bid specs. We have been approved for tree pruning and mitigation. Natalie Kennedy from the Wellsboro Gazette will have an article in the Wellsboro Gazette for the September 24th education sessions and would like to do a photo op in front of the Silver Maple located at the corner of Lincoln Street and Main Street. Council Members volunteered Arborist Mike White to do the photo op. He agreed.

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King St. Tree & Sidewalk – Update given to Council Members regarding the tree on King Street and new property owner George Loughery. Council Member Brian Kennedy met with new owner of the property regarding the tree in question and the sidewalk. After discussion and review of options it was determined by Council the walk needs to be replaced following ordinance guidelines.

Hazard Tree Requests – None

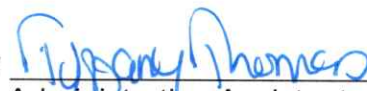
Discussion Topic – Main Street Planting – There were two Sophora trees removed for the Sidewalk Project on Main Street. One located in front of the Methodist Church at the corner of Queen and Main, the other in front of the Theatre. The Elm by the theatre had significant sidewalk upheaval due to the roots of the tree and therefore had to be removed. There is one more tree according to Borough Manager Louis Rachiele that may be removed and it's the Elm tree in front of the North West Bank. All other trees on Main Street are being evaluated. Parks & Recreation crew members are trying to save the Sophora Tree by the Penn Wells by digging around the base of the tree and carefully cutting the roots that pose a sidewalk problem. The hope is that by doing this the tree will survive and not need to be removed.

There was discussion about what trees to plant along Main Street as many Council Members felt the Sephora was the perfect tree for Main Street. Council Member Brian Kennedy and Parks & Recreation crew member Brett Menges visited Schichtel's Tree Farm to look at available trees. They would like to plant larger trees to start out for quicker shade along the sidewalks.

Council Member Vicki Fox expressed concerns regarding remaining trees for the rest of the Sidewalk Project. Council Member Tyler Upham was open to different trees being planted on Main Street. Arborist Mike White from Tree Master's offered suggestions and was happy to be included in this decision. Council Members hope to have a plan turned into Borough Manager Louis Rachiele in the near future which will describe the trees that have been picked to plant along Main Street.

Adjourn – Council Member Tyler Upham made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Council Member Vicki Fox. The next Shade Tree Commission Meeting is on October 13th, 2025 @ 8:30AM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by


Administrative Assistant