

Findlay Shade Tree Commission
Minutes of March 11, 2008

Meeting convened at 7:00PM in the Municipal Building Conference Room by Chair Ed Crawford. Those in attendance were: Ed Crawford, Linda Casey, Bruce Hardy, Rick Kidwell, Bill Malloy, Deb Seng, Mark Steward, Cathy Smith, and Matt Stoffel. Visiting were Mayor Pete Sehnert and citizen David Moore.

Minutes for the meeting of February 4, 2008 were approved with a correction to the Adopt-A-Tree report.

Reports

Street Dept. – Matt Stoffel

Tree removal/trimming and grinding work continues as time allows. The contractor has also been working on removals and trimming. Several Street Dept. employees attended a pruning seminar. Some employees will also be involved with a bucket truck safety training seminar.

Engineering Dept. – Mark Steward.

Utilization of a “rubber-based” material for sidewalks is being reviewed. Adrian, Michigan has installed a considerable amount of this material. Possible test site would be Riverside Park.

Plantings in new park at Sandusky and Main Street will be utilizing growth cells installed under the concrete.

City Council – Deb Seng

Mr. Slough expressed a concern at a recent council meeting about the number of trees being removed versus new plantings.

Service Director – Bruce Hardy

Term of service for Shade Tree Commission members has been reduced to three years with an approved modification of the ordinance. Mayor Sehnert will speak at the Arbor Day tree planting celebrations. Linda Casey will assist with the materials for the presentation.

City Forester – Cathy Smith

Cathy introduced Mr. Moore. He was interested in the discussion about the “rubber-based” sidewalk as he has had trouble with trees damaging the sidewalk at his property. He commended the contractor for the excellent work done with a recent tree removal.

Cathy distributed a fact sheet on bagworms. The newspaper had published an article on the bagworm. Cathy reported that there is a significant infestation throughout the south end of town.

The Tree City, USA awards program is scheduled for April 16th in Wapakoneta. So far Cathy, Linda Casey and Bill Malloy are planning to attend. She again mentioned that we might want to consider being the host city at some time in the future.

The Gateway Project has begun. Tree plantings have been completed. In April the grasses are to be planted. The planting of 11,500 grass sets has been scheduled for Saturday, April 5th.

The emerald ash borer (EAB) has been found within the city. The infestation is on private property in Hunter’s Creek (Country Creek Drive). A meeting with city officials, Stephanie Miller and Marianne Prue to discuss dealing with infestations on city property is to be scheduled in the near future.

The handling of the finances for the memorial tree program has hit a snag. There is an issue with the ability to handle carry-over amounts from year to year. The city treasurer is continuing to investigate the issue. Cathy and Rick will put some additional information together with respect to the format of the memorial tree program.

Old Business

The Arbor Day celebrations are scheduled for April 25th at Washington Intermediate School and the new park at Sandusky and Main Street. Cathy is checking with Jackie Berger to see if she will be making her annual contribution to pay for the tree to be planted at the school.

New Business

Adopt-A-Tree program timeline was reviewed. Applications will be distributed to the Shade Tree Commission members at the meeting on April 7th. North Branch will deliver the trees on April 24th. Additional discussion was held with respect to how the trees will be distributed. Information packets were assembled to be handed out at the time of the inspection of the applications.

Next Meeting – April 7, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Kidwell
Secretary