

Findlay Shade Tree Commission
Minutes of June 11, 2008

Meeting convened at 7:00PM in the Municipal Building Conference Room by Chair Ed Crawford. Those in attendance were: Brooks Bosse, Ed Crawford, Bruce Hardy, Rick Kidwell, Deb Seng, Cathy Smith, Mark Steward, and Matt Stoffel.

Minutes for the meeting of May 5, 2008 were approved.

Reports

Street Dept. – Matt Stoffel

City crews and the contractor service have caught up with tree removals. The sale of mulch/ compost has been steady.

Street Dept. personnel have been busy with pick-up of limbs downed by the recent storms.

Matt reiterated that there are some funds available for tree replacement. He believes there would be between \$6,000 – 7,000 available for the fall tree planting pilot.

Engineering Dept. – Mark Steward.

Additional information has been received on the rubber sidewalks. More consideration was given to the possibility of an on-site inspection of the installations in Adrian, MI. A late summer time frame was discussed.

City Council – Deb Seng

Deb stated that she had spoken with Bob Sprague with respect to the budget. He indicated that monies for tree related expenses are placed within the Parks budget. He also stated that revenues are down so expectations for additional funds should not be high.

Service Director – Bruce Hardy

Working with Cathy to address the trees planted along East Sandusky Street/ Hunters' Creek. Trees are within the right of way, under the utility lines. They will be working with the homeowners to consider the options for dealing with those plantings.

An amendment to the tree ordinance is being considered that would include "weeping" tree forms to the list of prohibited trees in the ordinance.

Discussion was held with respect to the placement of utilities underground.

City Forester – Cathy Smith

The EAB treatment demonstration using "Treeage" was conducted at Riverside Park. Approximately 30 people attended the demonstration by Ron Howe. There were several questions during the event.

Cathy had spoken with Jim Barker, Safety Director, about how to address "improper" plantings within the tree lawns throughout the city. He indicated that he believed the NEAT Program would be the proper enforcement tool for those issues.

Old Business

The 2008 fall tree planting program was reviewed. Cathy had spoken with North Branch Nursery on the availability of three species for that planting. Those included the Winter King Hawthorn, Greenspire Linden, and hackberry.

The quantities being considered are 20%, 30% and 50% respectively. The timeframe at this point would be to advertise the program in September. Have an application deadline of October 1st, and a distribution date of November 1st.

New Business

A draft of The EAB Management Plan for the City of Findlay was reviewed. STC member Rick Kidwell voiced serious disapproval of the wording, "The city will systematically remove all of its ash trees." This and other discussion led to the decision that the draft needs some additional work. STC members were asked to continue to review the document and suggest any other changes. More discussion will be held at the July meeting.

Next Meeting – July 7, 2008.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Kidwell
Secretary