

Findlay Shade Tree Commission
Minutes of July 7, 2008

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

Minutes for the meeting of June 11, 2008 were approved.

Reports

Street Dept. – Matt Stoffel

Both the city crews and the contractor have been removing trees as time allows. Matt has been working on a cost estimate (time, equipment, etc.) for the clean-up of the brief wind storm. The storm, which lasted about forty minutes, may have cost over \$15,000. There was additional discussion about residents “cost sharing” in things like storm clean-up, limb removal, etc.

Engineering Dept. – Mark Steward

Mark spoke with Greg Graven with respect to using Eagle Scout candidates to assist with fall tree planting. The prospects for this look very encouraging.

There was additional information received with respect to connecting the rubber sidewalk product to existing concrete sections.

City Council – Deb Seng

Deb reported that Councilman Schedel had been contacted with a concern about the potential removal of ash trees at Firestine Park. That situation was clarified for him.

Service Director – Bruce Hardy

A letter, with respect to the Austree plantings along East Sandusky Street, has been drafted for the Hunter’s Creek residents whose property abuts those plantings. AEP is offering to remove the trees and grind the stumps on an “all or none” basis. Further decisions will be based on feedback from residents.

City Council approved the addition of “weeping” tree forms to the list of prohibited plantings on city property.

City Forester – Cathy Smith

Cathy has also met with an Eagle Scout candidate with respect to assisting with fall plantings in two park areas. Another scout will be working within the Maple Grove area.

Old Business

Application for the fall tree planting program has been placed on the website. Additional discussion with respect to the fall program was held. There was concern expressed by Brooks Bosse that it was being “opened up” and not targeting areas where trees have been removed. After additional discussion, it was decided that during July and August Cathy would offer the fall planting option to property owners where trees were being removed. Based on those numbers, the decision would be made as to how to move forward with the distribution. STC member Bosse stated that he would not support future fall plantings if they were not targeted as replacements.

Following additional discussion, and an objection by STC member Kidwell to the wording, an amended form of the Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan was approved. Cathy will prepare a final draft of the amended plan.

Adopt-A-Tree inspection materials were handed out. Members are to bring completed inspections to the August meeting.

New Business

Election of STC offices was held. Mike Jurkiewicz was elected as Chair. Brad Bosse was chosen as Vice-Chair. Rick Kidwell was selected as Secretary.

Next Meeting – August 4, 2008.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Kidwell
Secretary