

## **Findlay Shade Tree Commission**

Minutes of August 3, 2009

Meeting convened at 7:00 PM in the Municipal Building Conference Room by Chair Mike Jurkiewicz. Those in attendance were: Ed Crawford, Bruce Hardy, Mike Jurkiewicz, Bill Malloy, Deb Seng, and Matt Stoffel. Guests included Robert McCall and Jim Chatfield, OSU Extension Office and citizens from the Lakeview HOA-John Selick and Dennis Hellman.

There were none submitted from our June 2009 meeting.

### Reports

#### **Street Dept. – Matt Stoffel**

Matt reported they are catching up on tree and stump removals. Getting more calls on EAB problems as more Ash trees are showing signs of the disease.

Residents can still leave off tree waste at the City; hours open are 7am-3:15pm on Fridays and open on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays of the month from 8am – 12pm.

There will be no city leave “pick-up” this fall due to the City’s budget. However, residents can prop off leaves in Bio-bags at the designated dump site.

North Branch Nursery dropped off the replacement trees (6 Crabs and 2 Pears) for our Adopt-A-Tree spring planning loss. All have been planted and look great. The Nursery really did not have to do this and it was a much appreciated gesture. A letter of appreciation will be sent to them.

#### **Engineering Dept. – No Report**

#### **City Council – Deb Seng**

Deb reported that the biggest issue facing the city is revenue shortfalls, which is impacting programs and services. Council will probably vote to place the income tax increase on the November ballot. Proposed is a half of a half percent increase each of the next two years. This should generate approx. \$14 million.

#### **Service Director – Bruce Hardy**

Bruce had echoed what Deb Seng reported on the cities budget. The 2010 budget looks bleak if no revenue increases in made. Noted that the 2010 Adopt-A-Tree Program may have to be reduced in scope, eliminated or else seek another way to fund for the remaining third we owe on the trees. This will be discussed after the November election at the November 9, 2009 meeting.

### Old Business

The committee was informed that Linda Casey had resigned her position on the Shade Tree Commission effective today. Replacements will be sought in the future.

Summer Site Evaluations – Mike reported that he would be doing the inspections on all the trees and report back his findings at our next meeting.

## New Business

Lakeview HOA, Hellman and Selick reported to the committee their concerns with having to replace all the diseased Ash trees in there sub-division along with what type of trees would we recommend and any other guidance we may have. Through the discussion several options were discussed from chemical treatment to complete eradication of trees. Right now they are only cutting the trees that have died. They had the species information allowed on the Cities Right-A-Ways from the Commission and will be looking into finding a source as well as a professional service vendor to assist the HOA.

Robert McCall, OSU Extension Agent, introduced Jim Chatfield, who is OSU's Forester from Wooster. Jim gave an introduction on a program, "Why Trees Matter" as well as explaining the many values trees offer urban areas. As part of this discussion, Robert McCall asked if our committee would like to be a part of a regional program that would be hosted in Findlay. The timeline given would be to assist on a planning committee in February 2010 and then hold the planned meeting in June. It was noted that our committee would assist on the planning parts of this effort along with ODNR-Division of Forestry.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Next Meeting - October 5, 2009.

Respectfully submitted,

Ed Crawford