

The Tree Commission Meeting for the City of New Castle took place on June 4, 2012 at 5:30 p.m. in the City of New Castle's Town Hall.

Members Present: John Lloyd, Chairperson
 Chip Patterson
 Erv Thatcher
 Tom Truman
 Nancy Coning*
 Susan Keyser

Members Absent: Fran Peden
 Mark Miller

*Ms. Coning joined the meeting at 5:35 p.m.

Mr. Lloyd convened the meeting at 5:30 p.m. Roll call was taken.

Approval of Minutes – Ms. Keyser clarified language in her Member Report, p. 2. **A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the May meeting as amended. The motion was approved.**

New Business

Mr. Ennio D'Alessandro spoke to the group on behalf of a neighbor about the main power line lying on their house and touching the tree branches of a Bradford pear tree at 36 W. 7th Street (neighbor). He has four (4) trees at 607 Tremont Street in need of pruning. They are on the pruning request list.

Deferred Items

110 Delaware Street – The homeowner cut the tree himself. The stubs need to be removed. **Ms. Keyser made a motion to clean up the stubs on the tree. Mr. Truman seconded the motion which was approved by unanimous vote.**

36 E. 6th Street – The homeowner is having work done on the sidewalk and the contractor was disturbing the roots on two (2) maple trees. She told Mr. Patterson she wanted the trees removed and he advised her to communicate with this body to discuss her situation, but she was not to do anything to the trees. Nothing has been received from the homeowner. (*Discussion about the state of the trees followed.*)

141 E. 3rd Street – There is a maple tree here that has girdled roots. The whole top of the tree is now dead. **Mr. Thatcher made a motion to remove the tree at 141 E. 3rd Street. Mr. Truman seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

211 Harmony Street – A Kwanson cherry tree is severely raising the sidewalk. Russ Carlson suggests cutting some major limbs off one side and cut the root on the other side. Ms. Keyser supports Mr. Carlson's suggestion but is not in favor of removing the tree. No cost for this work has been determined.

Planting Requests

Sailing Club – The locust tree has been removed from the circle. Mr. Thatcher is not in favor of planting another tree because it causes problems when the fire department tries to launch their rescue boat. It was decided at a previous meeting that no replacement tree would be planted here.

207 E. 2nd Street – A Stewartia tree in front of the house is stunted. Ms. Keyser suggested moving the tree to 213 E. 2nd Street in place of the tree that was removed there. She also suggested asking the homeowner to provide a donation for planting another tree at 207 E. 2nd Street.

Planting Requests (Contd.)

110 Delaware Street – The homeowner would like to remove the Zelcovas and put something else in their place. He does not like the trees or consider them good street trees. Ms. Keyser disagreed with the statement they are not good street trees. The homeowner has been advised to stop working on these trees. *(Discussion.)*

222 Delaware Street (3rd Street side of property) – Two (2) red buds that have incurred damage. One tree has been broken off just above the ground with only the stump left.

Pruning Requests

Mr. Lloyd reported that all the trees on the list are in need of trimming. Individual costs will be obtained before decisions are made. The address of 100 W. 3rd Street was added to the list. It is a chestnut tree with a lot of dead wood in the tree. Ms. Keyser asked if the homeowner had been approached about providing some compensation to the Tree Commission to reimburse for the cost of removing the two trees at this location. The homeowner did not approach the Tree Commission for removal of these trees prior to a construction project. It is believed the tree roots were damaged during construction. Mr. Thatcher expressed concern that the chestnut tree is a dangerous tree and a liability issue. Mr. Lloyd has not had any communication with the homeowner. *(Lengthy discussion followed about the history of tree removal at this location, liability and budget.)*

Battery Park Trees

Messrs. Lloyd and Thatcher have not reviewed the three (3) to four (4) trees that need to be removed in Battery Park.

Removal Requests

46 E. 4th Street – Mr. Lloyd would like Commissioners to look at the locust tree.

5 & Williams – The tree has been pulled from the ground.

213 E. 2nd Street – The tree has been pulled from the ground.

218 E. 2nd Street – The homeowner is requesting removal. Mr. Lloyd asked Commissioners to look at the tree.

801 W. 13th Street – Pictures were circulated of two (2) topped trees showing dead wood in both.

Mr. Patterson made a motion to remove the two (2) maple trees. Mr. Truman seconded and the motion carried.

Fall 2011 Tree Planting

Ms. Keyser has spoken with the Delaware Center for Horticulture who provided the trees for the Fall 2011 planting. The mortality rate is high (25%) with this planting. Follow-up watering was one suspected problem. Mr. Lloyd said that watering is now underway. Ms. Keyser emphasized that valuable resources have been wasted. *(Lengthy discussion followed about funding, maintenance of current flower/shrub/tree plantings, and tree ordinance in the City.)*

Mr. Lloyd said we will continue to review our lists on a monthly basis, get pricing and submit requisitions to the City. It will be the City's responsibility to act on the Tree Commission's recommendations.

Stressed Trees

Mr. Lloyd asked that Commissioners look at this list and be ready to discuss at the July meeting.

Tree Commission Meeting Minutes
June 4, 2012

Member Reports

Mr. Thatcher – Nothing to report.

Mr. Patterson – Nothing to report.

Ms. Keyser – She has been contacted by Ken Darsney of Delaware Historical and Cultural Affairs about Tree Commission trees versus State trees in the City and associated concerns. Ms. Keyser asked if the elm tree on Third Street Extension needs to be treated. Mr. Lloyd said there are elms nearby that have Dutch elm disease and this tree should be treated. Ms. Keyser followed up on the list from Bartlett showing recommended treatments for elm trees and asked if Mr. Carlson was contacted. Mr. Lloyd said Mr. Carlson suggested we do some on the list but not the entire list.

Mr. Truman – A locust tree at 28 The Strand is showing signs of stress on its top branches. Mr. Lloyd said this tree is on the pruning list and we should take a “wait and see” approach.

Ms. Coning – Nothing to report.

Adjournment

There being no more business to address, the meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie

Debbie Turner
Stenographer