

City of New Castle Tree Commission Meeting
April 1, 2013 -- 5:30 p.m.
City of New Castle Town Hall

Members Present: John Lloyd
Nancy Coning
Pam Patone
Erv Thatcher
Tom Truman

Member Absent: Susan Keyser

Mr. Lloyd convened the meeting at 5:30 p.m. Roll call was taken and a quorum is present.

Minutes – A motion was made and seconded to approve the 3/4/13 meeting minutes.
Motion carried.

Tree pruning and tree removal lists for March and April 2013 were distributed prior to the meeting for discussion tonight.

Mr. Lloyd informed there will be three bids for quarterly tree work.

Mr. Truman made a motion to approve the March 2013 Pruning and Removal Lists. The motion was seconded and approved.

April 2013 Pruning and Removal Lists

The homeowner of 21 East 6th Street has requested that two sycamore trees in front of the house be removed. The roots are impacting the steps to the house. Photos were circulated. Root pruning likely would destabilize the tree. After discussing options Commissioners decided removal was the best course of action. **Ms. Coning made a motion to remove the two sycamore trees. The motion was seconded and approved.**

907 School Street (bet. 9th and 10th Streets) – Two Bradford pear trees are lifting the sidewalk.

Commissioners were asked to look at items on the lists and be prepared to discuss at the May meeting.

Member's Reports

Ms. Coning – There is a house at 28 East 5th Street that has two trees that drip sap that draws bees and creates problems for people. One of the trees was approved for removal at a previous meeting. Commissioners agreed the second tree should also be removed. **Ms. Coning made a motion to remove the second tree at this location. Motion was seconded and approved.**

Mr. Truman – A tree at 9 Delaware Street needs its branch level raised. He inquired whether a replacement tree would be planted where an ash tree was removed (near Wm. Penn statue). According to Mr. Lloyd, no action is planned at this time. He would like to see bigger species trees (50-yr. span) planted in appropriate places throughout the City.

New Business

29 West 4th Street – The homeowner wants to plant a tree in the front sidewalk area. The sidewalk is narrow and there is little space to plant a tree. She has selected a couple of trees from the approved list. There is no budget for this work at this time and the homeowner needs to speak with the City Building Department about possibly opening up the sidewalk.

A call was received from someone wanting to donate an American elm tree to the City. Memorial Park was suggested. New Castle City Police Sergeant Rogers would like to have a tree to plant in memory of his father and this may be an option. It was suggested the flood plain map be reviewed before planting; the area near the tennis courts was viewed as favorable.

Russ Carlson has recommended the elm trees be treated this year. Mr. Lloyd will speak with Barlett to get pricing. **Ms. Coning made a motion to inject the City's elm trees this year with a chemical to suppress Dutch elm disease. The motion was seconded and approved.**

Delmarva Power Railroad Park – Delmarva Power is clearing transmission lines in this area and has requested approval to remove the Leyland cypress trees in the park. They would like to move an existing crab apple tree to another location in the park (fall planting). Delmarva would handle removal and replant with another species of tree that doesn't grow as quickly. They are flexible with replanting locations. They will not grind the stumps.

A motion was made by Mr. Truman to agree to Delmarva cutting down the Leyland cypress trees and move the crab apple tree during fall planting to another place in the park. The motion was seconded and approved.

Adjournment

There being no more business to address, the meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Debbie Turner
Stenographer