

MINUTES
City of New Castle Tree Commission Meeting
October 7, 2013 -- 5:30 p.m.
City of New Castle Town Hall

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

Also Present: Debbie Turner, Stenographer

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. Roll call was taken. Ms. Niedermayer was welcomed as a new member of the Tree Commission.

Minutes – Mr. Truman made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 2013 meeting. Mr. Thatcher seconded. The minutes were approved.

Mr. Lloyd reported that Kathy Tidwell donated a 5-foot flowering Cleveland Pear tree to the City. He would like to plant the tree on the property of 55-57 West 8th Street. Mr. Lloyd will send a 'thank you' letter. No opposition voiced.

Member's Reports

Mr. Truman – Wondered if a tree would be planted on the corner near the senior center. The area is open with no wires or sidewalks. Mr. Lloyd will speak with Kathy Zane and report back. There are a few small trees that could be pruned in Dewey Park. Mr. Truman would be willing to do the work. Ms. Monigle asked him to trim limbs on some of her small trees. The panel agreed.

Pictures of 242 E. 2nd Street were circulated. The homeowner would like the tree to be removed. The roots are breaking through the home's foundation. Russ Carlson provided two options: remove the tree or do trench and root barriers necessary to keep the tree. The cost of removal is estimated at \$5,000 with the cost for trench and root barrier is in the \$8,000-\$10,000 range. (**Refer to p. 2 for motion to remove tree.*)

Pictures were circulated of two Sycamore trees at 228 E. 2nd Street and 230 E. 2nd Street. It was decided to defer action on removal of the Sycamore at 228 E. 2nd Street until more information from Russ Carlson is available. No decisions were made regarding 230 E. 2nd Street.

There was discussion about the process of determining what gets trimmed and/or removed and payment for those services. The Tree Commission submits recommendations to City Council for approval to do work. Mr. Lloyd keeps a running list of action items. We are required to get three bids for all work.

Tree pruning lists for July, September and October and tree removal lists for July and September were reviewed.

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124 E. 4th Street, Hornbeam (*September Pruning*) – The house and electric wires are clear. The tree is not against the house. The tree has been trimmed twice in the last four years.

Communication wires are running through the tree. Mr. Lloyd suggests trimming as much as possible without damaging the tree. He does not support removing the tree. Commissioners were asked to look at the tree before the next meeting.

Ms. Patone made a motion to prune the hornbeam at 124 E. 4th Street. Mr. Truman seconded the motion. Motion was approved.

9 E. 2nd Street, Locust (*September Pruning*) – It was suggested the branch levels be raised to clear the house.

904 Delaware Street, Oak (*October Pruning*) – Mr. Lloyd received a phone call to inform the tree needs to be topped. Remove major deadwood and raise the branch level would be the recommendation.

833 Clayton Street, Elm (*October Pruning*) – The occupant made a large cut in the tree, removing a very large leader. The Tree Commission was not consulted; therefore, the authorized assessment will be billed, and an evaluation requested to assess the damage to City property and the structural integrity of the remainder of the tree. Mr. Lloyd will prepare a violation notice.

104 W. 10th Street (on Clayton Street), Maple (*October Removals*) – **A motion was made by Ms. Patone to remove the Sycamore tree at 242 E. 2nd Street and the maple tree at 104 W. 10th Street (on Clayton Street). Ms. Niedermayer seconded and the motion was approved.**

September Pruning – Mr. Lloyd said that most of the work on the list needs to be done. Extreme pruning is needed at W. 6th Street (bet. Tremont and Delaware), 5 Sycamore trees; 600 Delaware Street, Sycamore; and 601 Delaware Street (on E. 6th Street). Bids have been received from Tree, Inc. and Kerns Brothers.

Ms. Patone made a motion to accept the September 2013 pruning list. Mr. Truman seconded. The motion was approved.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.