

MINUTES
City of New Castle Tree Commission Meeting
December 2, 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.

Minutes – A motion was made and seconded to approve the 10/7/13 minutes as distributed. Motion approved.

A copy of the updated budget was distributed to the Commissioners.

Members Reports

Mr. Thatcher – There is a large branch hanging over the street at Third and Delaware Streets. The homeowner had the tree removed at his own expense.

Mr. Truman – Inquired about the status of plantings proposed by Mrs. Marini at a previous meeting. Mr. Lloyd suggested waiting to allow the ground to better stabilize before any planting is done.

Mr. Lloyd asked that Commissioners review the pruning and removal lists provided to them. He reported on three situations and action taken.

- 833 Clayton Street – A large leader was removed from a Chinese elm tree by the homeowner. Mr. Lloyd has sent an invoice for \$6,456 based on Russ Carlson's report. *(Copy provided to Commissioners.)*
- Norfolk Southern Railroad – Norfolk Southern has agreed to pay \$1,960 for the removal of a maple tree that they had removed from their property.
- Bantam Park – A tree that had been abused was removed and the vehicle owner was invoiced for \$4,779.

Mr. Lloyd will inquire about putting monies into the Tree Commission budget once invoices are paid. If invoices are not satisfied, a lien is placed on the subject properties.

Ms. Patone explained work the City water department did while preparing to replace water mains. DelDOT had approved plans in place that included the removal of trees. The water department supervisor had the identified trees removed and/or pruned without talking with the Tree Commission. A City procedure has since been put in place to include this

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body on all tree-related matters in the future. The DelDOT representative for the work has been requested to speak with Mr. Lloyd about the procedure and to arrange for replenishment of the trees. Mr. Lloyd informed that the City has a contract with the State dating to 1953 stating the City is responsible for all trees on State rights-of-way through the City.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m.