

MINUTES  
City of New Castle Tree Commission Meeting  
April 7, 2014 -- 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 1/6/14 minutes. Motion approved.

Members Reports

Mr. Lloyd – Tree pruning and removal lists were provided to commissioners. He asked commissioners to look at the pruning list and be prepared to discuss at the next meeting.

The list includes:

- 37 E. Sixth Street -- The homeowner would like to remove a pear tree. The tree is located on the Harmony Street side of the property.
- 220 East Second Street -- Severe root intrusion on sidewalk.
- 58 West Fourth Street – The tree was recently trimmed, but has a bad split in the main crotch of the tree.
- 600 Delaware Street – A large Sycamore tree is causing damage to the roof of the house. The owner of the house will be contacted before any action is taken.

Lists of tree pruning and removals that have been previously approved by this body was provided to commissioners. A list of large recommended tree species to be considered for planting in the City was provided and commissioners were asked to review for comment. The list was prompted by a resident who is considering planting a large tree and asked for guidance. Mr. Lloyd thinks it is acceptable for residents to pick trees to plant on their properties. They should understand that when planting trees they must contact the utility company. Pamphlets from ISA could be available to the public. Mr. Lloyd said that going forward it is likely the Tree Commission will not be funding or planting trees in the City. He encourages residents to select trees and contact this body for consultation and assistance. The residents will pay and plant trees themselves. A list of tree planters could be developed for reference, but is not available at this time.

Follow up -- 36 East 6<sup>th</sup> Street – There is a Norway maple tree in poor condition that the group was asked to check out. No decision about this tree has been made to date.

List of approved pruning and removal items covered under the Urban and Community Forestry grant were provided to commissioners. A weather-related extension was granted. Work is now underway.

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The City is working in conjunction with Delaware Greenways and Penn Farm on an Arbor Day celebration scheduled for 4/25/14. Commissioners are invited. Donated trees will be planted at the farm.

Ms. Niedermayer – Inquired about the grove of cherry trees along the Battery Park walkway. Mr. Thatcher said the Tree Commission planted the trees approximately 15 years ago. They were not properly spaced apart at planting.

Mr. Thatcher – The sidewalk in the area of 36 West 7<sup>th</sup> Street is broken up due to roots from a Sycamore tree. He is concerned with pedestrian safety. Commissioners were asked to look at the whole block and revisit at the next meeting.

Ms. Patone – There will be a tree raffle at the New Castle library in celebration of Earth Day.

Budget – The budget proposal for FY15 was provided to commissioners. He invited input from commissioners. In FY14 the Tree Commission was approved for \$25,000. Mr. Lloyd said the Tree Commission has been approved to receive \$5,000 in matching funds from the City to supplement the grant from Urban Community. Ms. Niedermayer inquired about a GIS inventory. Mr. Lloyd said there will be a printed map and computer program containing an older inventory dating back to 2004. Ms. Patone will try to locate records in her office and see if they can be updated to reflect current inventory. *(Ms. Patone emailed the 2004-05 inventory to commissioners and has located electronic information. Compatibility to current software is being explored.)*

The meeting was adjourned at 6 p.m.