

MINUTES
City of New Castle Tree Commission Meeting
June 2, 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

*Joined meeting at 5:45 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

Minutes – A motion was made and seconded to approve the 5/5/14 minutes. Motion approved.

Member Reports

Mr. Thatcher expressed concern with the following:

- Three (3) trees on Harmony Street between 5th and 6th Street against St. Peter's fence. Two having long-hanging branches making it difficult to walk under and the third has branches extending 3'-4' off the ground into the street.
- 6th & Ferry Cut-off – Tree is blocking vehicular view. He and Mr. Lloyd will assess the situation tomorrow.
- 36-38 West Seventh Street – Sycamore tree is causing the sidewalk to heave causing a dangerous safety situation. Heavy pedestrian usage. Mr. Thatcher is very concerned with the roots that are above ground. Mr. Lloyd will have Russ Carlson look at the tree tomorrow.

Ms. Coning – Asked about the status of the tree to be removed in front of her house. It is on the removal list.

Mr. Truman – Inquired about the ash tree in front of the house at 8 The Strand. It has been gradually declining. Mr. Carlson will be asked to look at the tree.

Ms. Niedermayer – Homeowners at the end of Alexander Alley request removal of the locust tree. Mr. Lloyd said they can remove the tree with a contractor approved by this body. The cost is then borne by the homeowners. The Tree Commission has the tree on the removal list, but no action will be taken at this time for budgetary reasons.

Ms. Patone – She continues to work on the computerized tree inventory. Mr. Lloyd will review and edit the list.

Mr. Lloyd – Tree removal requests for June 2014 were reviewed. All are considered to be critical. The maple tree on Battery Park needs to be removed; it is structurally unsound. The Trustees of the New Castle Common and Tree Commission work together in Battery Park.

May 2014 removal list – There were no concerns raised by Commissioners.

Mr. Truman made a motion to remove the trees listed on the May 2014 list. Motion was seconded and approved.

April 2014 removal list – **Mr. Truman made a motion to approve removal of specified trees at 220 East Second Street and 58 West Fourth Street and take no action on the remaining three trees. Motion seconded and approved.**

Ash trees – Several ash trees in the City are struggling. Many are interfering with structures. Commissioners were asked to look at these trees and make recommendations. Ms. Niedermayer said the Emerald ash borer is threatening nearby regions and could present problems here. There are over 40 ash trees in the former tree inventory that she is soliciting help to inspect. We do not have any records of private property trees of any kind; therefore, we do not know the number of ash trees on private property. The Tree Commission has the authority to regulate trees on private property if they are considered significant to the City. Elm trees in the City are treated every three years. A similar program could be started to protect the City's ash trees against the Emerald ash borer. The program would include educating the public about the disease.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Tree Commission Meeting Minutes
June 2, 2014