

The Tree Commission Meeting for the City of New Castle took place on March 1, 2010 at 5:30 p.m. in the City of New Castle's Town Hall.

Members Present: Chip Patterson, Chairperson
Susan Keyser, Co-Chairperson
Erv Thatcher
John Lloyd
Tom Truman
Mark Miller

Members Absent: Fran Peden
Nancy Coning

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Patterson at 5:30 p.m. Roll call was taken.

Approval of Minutes – Approval of the February meeting minutes will be addressed at the March meeting.

Note: Mr. Toby Hagerott also attended the meeting. His official membership is pending approval from City Council.

MEMBERS REPORT

Erv Thatcher – There is a dead Norway maple (trunk is split) at 123 Delaware Street that needs to be removed.

Susan Keyser – She is continuing to work on the planting list and is still taking requests.

Tom Truman – At 208 Delaware Street there is a tree that appears to have incurred damage during the snow removal process. It has a split branch and a broken branch that needs to be trimmed. The tree itself is fine.

John Lloyd – There is a silver maple with major dead wood in it at 40 West Sixth Street. Another silver maple on the Harmony Street side of 100 East Fourth Street with the same problem was reported. There is a juniper tree adjacent to the garage at Jefferson House that is full of bag worms. The tree is located on private property and the property owner should address the issue. There are two (2) Zelkovas in front of the court house that look bad and we may want to get them evaluated. Another silver maple in front of 227 Chestnut Street has significant dead wood in it. There is a large oak tree across from 1600 Johnson Way in Centerpointe that is in poor shape resulting from road construction. Trees in this area are set back and not in the public right-of-way. Mr. Patterson will notify Ms. Grace at Centerpointe informing of this tree's condition. *(Brief discussion followed.)* At 1003 Wilmington Road on Baldt Avenue there is a silver maple that may be a City tree. It has major dead wood in it

and the main crotch of the tree (about 4' off ground) is in poor condition. He recommends removal of this tree and requests that Commission members look at the tree before a final decision is made. He followed up on a tree at 300 Harmony Street that was discussed at our last meeting. Tree branches are hanging over the street and are against the house. Tree, Inc. was charged with looking at the situation and providing a recommendation to this body. That recommendation has not yet been received. It was noted that recent weather events may be the cause for the delay.

Tree Commission members are asked to look at the list of trees mentioned this evening and be prepared to provide a recommendation at the next meeting.

227 Chestnut Street – dead wood/pruning
100 East Fourth Street – dead wood/pruning
40 West Sixth Street – dead wood/pruning
1003 Wilmington Road on Baldt Avenue – removal
208 Delaware Street – pruning
123 Delaware Street – removal
Jefferson House – bag worms (notify homeowner)

Mark Miller – Nothing to report.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

A City tree fell in VanDyke Village behind the houses that caused power loss to one-third of the area. Mr. Patterson will ask City crews to walk City property and common lands looking for rotted trees needing to be removed. If any rotted trees are located on Trustees property we would alert them to determine whether they want to have the tree removed or charge the Tree Commission with removal.

Frank DiSabatino presented a check for \$350 to replace the tree removed on Baldt Avenue. Another small donation was received to help offset costs involved with the catalpa tree. A generous donation was also received from Richard Heath to help defray these costs. Total donations to date are approximately \$500.

Michael Hemphill Removal of Trees – Mr. Patterson informed members that he has had email communication with Mr. Hemphill concerning the removal of seven (7) trees on Trustee's property and that no authorization from the Trustees had been granted for this removal. Mr. Patterson suggested Mr. Hemphill speak with the Trustees. Mr. Miller expressed concern about needing more trees rather than removing trees.

Mr. Patterson noted that the work that Tree, Inc. has done in the City is satisfactory and he is very pleased. Other Tree Commission members agreed with his assessment.

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Mr. Patterson provided a copy of the bank statement to members as of the end of January 2010. He informed the Tree Commission has received its Trustees' contribution in January.

Adjournment

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved and the meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Turner
Stenographer