

The Tree Commission Meeting for the City of New Castle took place on October 3, 2001 at 5:30 p.m. in the City of New Castle's Town Hall.

Members Present: John Lloyd, Chairperson
 Chip Patterson
 Erv Thatcher
 Tom Truman
 Nancy Coning

Members Absent: Fran Peden
 Mark Miller
 Susan Keyser

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Lloyd at 5:35 p.m. Roll call was taken and a quorum was declared.

Approval of Minutes – Ms. Keyser submitted her corrections to the September minutes to the Tree Commission prior to the meeting. Mr. Lloyd noted several corrections to the Chairperson Report. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the 9/12/11 meeting as amended. The motion was approved.

Old Business

46 E. 3rd Street – Ms. Keyser expressed an opinion prior to the meeting (via email) that she favors removal of the tree near the steps.

Mr. Truman made a motion to cut the tree down near the steps and study the roots of the tulip tree closest to the library and level the bricks on the sidewalk. Mr. Thatcher seconded the motion. The motion was passed.

The homeowner requested a letter for her insurance carrier when the tree is removed.

700 W. 7th Street – The homeowner would like to have up to five (5) trees planted. His original proposal was for three (3) trees. He is willing to have one (1) tree planted on his property if it is a visual impediment to traffic. He prefers this tree to be between the sidewalk and the street, but is flexible. He believes the planting of these trees will help to beautify the area. These trees are part of the Delaware Center for Horticulture planting. (*Discussion about the species of the trees to be planted took place.*) Mr. Lloyd received an opinion from the City police department and a UD traffic engineer concerning traffic issues in this area and both were favorable to planting these trees as long as they are appropriately spaced for the type of tree. Location of the trees was discussed and the Tree Commission will determine placement of trees on the street.

Mr. Patterson entered a motion to approve the planting of five (5) trees not to go beyond the front of the house towards the corner of the property and the trees will be adequately spaced to provide for growth and maturity. Mr. Truman seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

The homeowner was asked not to trim the trees; the Tree Commission is responsible for that work.

230 E. 2nd Street – A limb was removed from a tree at this location and the homeowner has requested more limbs be removed. Mr. Lloyd suggested removing five (5) low limbs from this tree. Ms. Keyser noted in a previous meeting that she is against removing any more limbs. Mr. Patterson would like to look at the tree again before making a decision. The matter was deferred until Commissioners look at the tree.

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240 E. 2nd Street – Mr. Thatcher suggested that Commissioners look at a sycamore tree at this location. It has a large cavity in it.

Pruning requests – Most of these requests involve clearing limbs away from houses. 126 Harmony Street needs major pruning. Mr. Truman expressed concern with the large size of some of the limbs on this tree.

Removal requests -- 116 E. 3rd Street--tops of trees are dead. Mr. Lloyd reminded that we decided last month to cut these trees down. 49 The Strand--half of the tree is dead. Mr. Lloyd believes the tree should be removed. 29 The Strand—this is an oak tree that is intertwined in wires. Mr. Truman noted the top is dead and branches need to be trimmed. Mr. Lloyd will look at the tree again before suggesting a path forward. 17 The Strand—about 50% of the tree is dead and the cavity on the street side is overgrown with fungus.

If everything on these lists is approved, just the trimming list comes to \$3,625 and our budget is about \$2,700. Council would like this body to prioritize projects, get pricing, and submit a purchase order. Mr. Patterson asked if Council indicated how they categorize priorities. According to Mr. Lloyd, any branch that is jeopardizing a property would be a high priority. (*Lengthy discussion about the Tree Commission's various levels of priorities followed.*) Going forward Mr. Lloyd wants to apply for a state Department of Forestry grant next year to help increase our urban canopy from our current 13% to 35%-40%. It is unsure if private property is included in this grant. The Lions Club is another organization that wants to plant trees (5 million trees over the next year nationwide) and we may want to take advantage of this offer. The Trustees are interested in getting trees for their properties. Minimal mowing areas would be good areas for plantings.

Mr. Lloyd asked for any comments on the tree removal list for last month. Mr. Patterson questioned the cost of \$2,800 for removal of a sycamore tree at 228 East 2nd Street. Mr. Lloyd is not sure this tree should be removed because it is so large. It is apparently interfering with a home's foundation wall and pushing the drain up (which could be changed). The cost for removal of trees depends on the number of trees we decide to remove. Mr. Patterson suggested looking at the list again in November after most trees have lost their foliage. Mr. Lloyd said there has been a request to remove four (4) trees at 4 Casimir Court that are affecting the sidewalk. He added there are no healthy trees on Casimir Court. Mr. Truman has been approached by a homeowner on Harmony Street about a tree in front of his home that is tearing up the sidewalk (upward about 1 foot) and a large root growing toward his house. The tree looks fairly healthy and Mr. Truman isn't sure the root situation can be remedied without cutting the tree down. This tree is on the removal and pruning lists. The price for pruning this tree is \$200 to get it off the house; removal would cost \$400. Mr. Truman said the homeowner would like another tree planted. Mr. Lloyd said this homeowner and a neighbor were being affected by sewer line issues.

Mr. Patterson suggested approaching homeowners with offers of removing Bradford pear trees and replacing with donations of trees behind the sidewalks. Sidewalks and sewer lines are the problem and trees should not be planted between the sidewalk and curb in Van Dyke Village. (*Discussion followed.*)

The Delaware Center for Horticulture is planning on doing another planting in the spring. The Trustees want a lot of trees, which are free of charge. Trees are approximately 1-1/2"-2" in diameter.

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Mr. Truman asked for a more condensed list of trees being suggested for removal. Mr. Lloyd will get that list distributed to Commissioners soon.

There is a sugar maple at 49 The Strand that needs to be removed. Mr. Truman made a motion to remove the tree at 49 The Strand. Ms. Coning seconded the motion and the motion was passed.

There is a Norway maple at 17 The Strand that needs to be removed. Mr. Truman made a motion to remove the Norway maple at 17 The Strand. Ms. Coning seconded the motion and the motion was passed.

Mr. Thatcher said four (4) trees on Battery Park need to be removed.

At 141 E. Third Street there is a maple tree with the top cut off completely and the bottom part of the tree is under the wires. The top of the tree is dead. Mr. Lloyd added the tree to the removal list for Commissioners to look at.

There is a silver maple at 103 West 9th Street that has a rotten base and the crown is bad. Mr. Truman made a motion to cut down the silver maple tree at 103 West 9th Street. Ms. Coning seconded the motion. The motion was passed.

Planting requests – At 104 East 3rd Street the homeowner would like another tree to replace the Crimson king maple with a Kwansan cherry, gray dogwood, or an ivory sook Japanese tree.

Mr. Patterson made a motion to approve planting of a tree at 104 E. 3rd Street, disagreeing with the choices the resident made pending approval of different choices. Mr. Truman seconded the motion. The motion was passed.

Mr. Patterson made a motion to plant a tree at 16 East 6th Street (corner of 6th and Cherry Streets). Ms. Coning seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

A removal request for a sycamore tree at 15 East 2nd Street was discussed. Some Commissioners said the tree appears to be a healthy tree. Mr. Lloyd considers the tree to be a danger. Mr. Patterson would like to get the tree evaluated before making a decision.

New planting requests have been received from 120 West 9th Street and the Trustees planting in Battery Park and minimum mowing areas (2 areas).

A maple tree at 14th and Brylgon is leaning towards a home and has a cavity.

Mr. Thatcher made a motion to remove the tree in the right-of-way between Brylgon and Moore's Lane near 212 Brylgon. The motion was seconded and approved.

When planting time comes volunteers (Arasapha, Tree Commission, and Beautification Committee) will be needed to help with plantings. There will be 40 trees planted in teams of volunteers. The planting by the Delaware Center for Horticulture is scheduled for 11/5/11, 9 a.m.-11 a.m.

The forest service website has a tree canopy link that is interesting.

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Old Business

An update was provided about a tree in Battery Park that Russ Carlson evaluated for possible vandalism. It appears as though a hatchet was used about 8 feet up in the tree.

Budget – Our budget is \$2,736 (reflects work done by Russ Carlson of \$385). There is no sign of elm disease and there was a sign of leaf disease. He does not believe our budget should prevent us from doing what the ordinance intends this body to do. (*Discussion followed.*)

Members Reports – None.

Adjournment

There being no more business to address, the meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie

Debbie Turner
Stenographer