MINUTES

City of New Castle Tree Advisory Commission

October 3, 2016 – 4 p.m.

City of New Castle Town Hall

Members Present: John Antonio

 Marco Boyce

Tom Maddux

Members Absent: Keith Adams

David Robinson, Chair

John Lloyd *(advisor)*

Mr. Antonio called the meeting to order at 4:14 p.m. A quorum was declared.

Minutes – **A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the 8/25/16 special meeting. Motion was approved.**

New Applications

Application 2016-08 –104 W. 6th Street -- Applicant is willing to prune the tree. He is asking for a permit. A limb is obstructing a road sign and causing a safety issue. Mr. Antonio does not advise the applicant doing the pruning work. Approve the permit pending use of a reputable tree company. If they want the City to do the pruning we will address at that time.

**A motion was made to approve a permit pending use of a reputable tree company. Motion seconded and approved.**

Application 2016-09 – 25 E. 2nd St. -- Branches from two (2) Sycamore trees need pruning. Dead branches and a ‘hanger’ was removed. The work has been done. No further action needed by this body.

Application 2016-10 – 38 W. 6th Street – Large branches falling from tree causing damage to vehicle.

**A motion was made and seconded to approve a permit pending use of a reputable tree company. Motion was approved.**

Application 2016-11 –– 26 West 4th Street -- One (1) Zelcova tree, tree roots impacting house foundation, concrete, etc. Applicant is requesting removal of the tree and will replace with a tree at the Commission’s discretion.

**A motion was made to approve the removal of the tree and replace it with a tree from the approved tree list and work with the City accordingly. The motion was seconded. Motion passed.**

Application 2016-12 – 601 & 729 Clymer Street & 738 Clark Street -- Municipal Services Commission (MSC) will remove two (2) pin oak trees and one (1) Zelcova tree in Dobbinsville and replant two (2) trees elsewhere in place of the removed trees. Removal is necessary for maintenance of water lines and hydrants.

**A motion was made to approve removal of the three trees on the basis they will replant two trees in Dobbinsville. Motion was seconded and approved.**

Application 2016-13 – 158 East Third Street – Roots are penetrating the sidewalk and the limbs are touching the power lines. It is unknown what action the applicant is requesting.

One Commissioner looked at the tree and thinks the problem is minor compared to others in the City with the same problem.

**A motion was made to deny removal of the tree, but the applicant does need to have the roots removed by a professional tree firm. Motion was seconded and approved.**

Application 2016-14 – 208 Delaware Street -- Mr. Lloyd advises the City tree (Zelcova) needs to be removed as soon as possible. The tree has overgrown the space and is causing sidewalk problems.

**A motion was made to approve removal of the tree and replace with a tree from the approved tree list. Motion seconded and approved.**

Application 2016-15 – Battery Park – Requesting removal of a white pine tree causing a safety hazard. Work already done. No action required by this body.

Application 2016-16 --13 West 3rd Street – Request for removal of one (1) oak tree. The tree is a City tree. It is causing damage to private property. Property is adjacent to 13 E. Victorian Court.

**A motion was made and seconded to prune the tree. Motion approved.**

Application 2016-17 – 13 East Victorian Court – Applicant requests removal of one (1) 60 ft. gum tree. Applicant reported the tree is situated in the park (owned by the City) behind his property. *(Pictures were provided.)* He has complained about the tree’s limbs falling on his property numerous times over the last year and a half. Recently a limb fell through the roof of his new shed. He would like the tree (about 60 ft. tall) to be cut down. Limbs are still falling on his property and a neighbor’s property. He is concerned with personal injury as well. Mr. Johnson said that he spoke with deceased Councilman Albert Vannucci about the tree in early June 2016. Soon after a tree service came to look at the tree and indicated they would cut it down. No other action has taken place.

Commissioners said the subject tree has been approved for removal by the City, but the Tree Advisory Commission has not approved it yet. Once approved the tree will be moved up the removal list for removal as soon as possible. Mr. Antonio indicated he will inform Mr. Johnson when the tree will be removed and talk to Mr. Lloyd about the adjacent tree.

Additionally, Mr. Johnson reported incurring damage to his fence from a limb falling from another tree alongside the subject tree.

**Mr. Boyce made a motion to approve removal of the subject tree and then Mr. Antonio will speak with Mr. Lloyd to get a timeline for removal. Mr. Antonio seconded the motion. Motion was approved.**

Mr. Boyce wonders what needs to happen to see that this removal does not slip through the cracks. Mr. Antonio said he will contact John Lloyd or Bill Barthel, City Administrator, to see what the correct procedure is. He has worked in the area and can attest for the size of the tree and its limbs.

New Business

Mr. Boyce commented that the Tree Advisory Commission approved removal of two (2)

Sycamore trees near the Farmer’s Market. He noticed the eastern most tree is degraded and wonders if the City can inform where the tree is on the removal list. The trees are close to 200 years old and are in the state right of way and are the City’s responsibility. The subject tree has a lot of dead limbs that could cause damage to vehicles. The westerly tree is in better condition and could remain for a couple more years. The Trustees of the New Castle Common was looking into having a line of Sycamore trees planted along Route 273.

Mr. Lloyd will be made aware of the concerns of this group.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Debbie Turner

Stenographer

*(Stenographer not present at meeting; minutes transcribed from recording.)*