

MINUTES
City of New Castle Tree Advisory Commission
April 2, 2018 – 4 p.m.
New Castle Town Hall

Members Present: David Robinson, Chair
John Antonio
John Lloyd

Members Absent: Marco Boyce
Tom Maddux

Mr. Robinson called the meeting to order at 4 p.m.

Mr. Robinson called for a roll call.

Minutes – a motion was made to approve the minutes of the March 12th meeting as presented. The motion was seconded and approved.

New Applications

2018-04 – Mr. Lars Johannesen asked if the Commission had made a decision on removal of the tree in front of 106 Brylgon Avenue. Mr. Robinson advised that at the March 12th Meeting, it was agreed that the tree should be removed, but that it was unclear if the tree was owned by the City or if it was on private property. Mr. Lloyd advised that a determination had been made that the tree at 108 Brylgon Avenue was a City tree; however, the Building Official was not certain if the tree at 106 was a City tree or a private tree. The only way to make that determination was for the property owner to have a survey done of the property. Ms. Nancy Hamilton asked if there were any other way to make the determination of ownership, and Mr. Lloyd advised that there was not. Mr. Johannesen was unsure if he had a survey of the property from when he first purchased it. Mr. Lloyd advised that the Commission would not address the tree until it was determined if the tree was a City tree or a private tree and stated that the Commission only makes recommendations to the City Government and they make the determinations.

A Motion to have the tree removed was made, seconded and approved.

Miscellaneous

2018-03 – 157 Casimir Drive (Seleski) – Mrs. Seleski has asked that a tree be pruned. Mr. Robinson noted that at the March 12th Meeting, the Commission recommended that the tree be removed. He also noted that Mr. Furio Casale informed Mrs. Seleski that the tree was going to be taken down. Mrs. Seleski does not want the tree removed. The Commission reiterated its position that the tree should be removed.

Tree Tech Consulting – Mr. Robinson reviewed the letter from Mr. Russell Carlson of Tree Tech Consulting regarding tree root damage to sidewalks. Mr. Robinson suggested the Commission recommend to Administrator Barthel that the work be done. Mr. Carlson provided a ball-park figure of \$500 per tree. The residents will have to take up the bricks, Tree Tech will do the root pruning and the residents will have to replace the bricks. Mr. Barthel will be advised of the recommendations.

A Motion to have the three recommendations from Tree Tech dated March 25, 2018, acted on by the City was made, seconded and approved.

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Arbor Day - Mr. Robinson advised that the Municipal Services Commission (MSC) wants to plant eight trees in Dobbinsville on Arbor Day, and suggested that the City and Dobbinsville have a coordinated event. Mr. Lloyd suggested that the City have the Arbor Day Event in Dobbinsville.

Mr. Robinson and Mr. Antonio met with the new associate of the State Forest Service and the Forest Service will receive an Arbor Day Tree. They also discussed the package that indicates the City of New Castle is officially designated as a Tree City USA.

Trees on Rt. 9 – Mr. Robinson, Mr. Lloyd and Mr. Antonio visited the site and marked off the location of the 43 trees. One tree is located at the curb cut. The City is getting 45 trees. Mr. Robinson suggested that no tree be planted at the curb cut, and instead, locate 2 trees by Cochran's and 2 by the Apartments. Mr. Antonio talked to the Trust regarding the other side of the street, and there is interest by the Trust. The Trust will review and make a formal proposal. Mr. Robinson will contact Mr. Chris Castagno.

New Trees – Mr. Robinson and Mr. Antonio inspected the site on Delaware Street along the Methodist Cemetery between 5th and 6th Streets, and determined that the space could accommodate five trees. Ron Vukelich is going to have five excess trees. The nursery will remove the trees, transport them to where the City wants them at no cost, and plant them for less than \$100 each.

Mr. Vukelich will plant three Ginkgo's along the sidewalk that was just repaired in front of 227 Chestnut and three more up toward 2nd Street. The property owner will pay for the three trees in front of his house, and it is suggested that the City pay for the other three trees.

A Motion that the City fund the project at 215-221 Chestnut Street for three Ginkgo Trees for the price of \$230 plus \$50 each for planting was made, seconded and approved.

Mr. Robinson summed up the cost:

\$6,750 – trees on Rt. 9
\$ 500 – planting trees on Delaware Street
\$1,000 – three Ginkgo's on Chestnut Street
\$1,500 – Remediation of the sidewalks
\$9,750

The Commission has \$11,300 available. Mr. Lloyd recommended that the Commission utilize the entire Budget before June 1, 2018.

Sub-station Replanting – Mr. Lloyd asked if Mr. Robinson had spoken with Mr. Barthel about DP&L and MSC replanting screens at the Sub-stations. Mr. Robinson advised that Mr. Barthel was not aware of the situation. Mr. Robinson noted that MSC will take care of replanting at their site, but is not certain of DP&L's plans. Mr. Robinson will speak with Mr. Barthel and ask that he contact DP&L regarding the replanting. Mr. Lloyd suggested Norway Spruce and recommended that the trees be planted outside the fence.

Speed Limit – Mr. Lloyd asked for an update on the speed limit issue on Rt. 273. Mr. Robinson will remind Linda Ratchford to contact the Chief of Police and Nicole Poore at the State. Mr. Lloyd asked about an ordinance requiring the speed limit in the City limits be 35 mph or less that was discussed at the March 12th meeting. Mr. Robinson will also discuss this with Ms. Ratchford.

Gas Main – Mr. Lloyd asked for an update on the gas main plans on Rt. 273. Mr. Robinson noted that at the March 12th meeting Mr. Marco Boyce indicated it was imminent for 2018. Mr. Lloyd will contact Miss Utility.

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There being no further business, Mr. Robinson asked for a Motion to adjourn the meeting.

A Motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:33 pm was made, seconded and approved.

Kathy Weirich
Stenographer