

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

Members Present: David Robinson, Chair
Marco Boyce
John Antonio

Members Absent: Tom Maddux
John Lloyd

Mr. Robinson called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

Roll call followed and a quorum was declared.

Minutes

The Motion for Application 2018-06 in the June 4 Minutes was amended to read: A Motion to prune the three Zelcova trees on Clayton Street was made and seconded. The Motion passed unanimously.

A Motion was made to approve the minutes of the June 4, 2018, meeting as amended. The motion was seconded and approved.

New Applications

File #2018-08 – 117 E. 3rd Street

Applicants Allison and Henry Tobey submitted an Application to have trees in front of their residence at 117 E. 3rd Street pruned. After discussion, it was recommended that the tree closest to Harmony Street be pruned.

A Motion to prune the tree in front of 117 East 3rd Street was made and seconded. The Motion was unanimously approved.

File # 2018-09 – 20 West 10th Street

Applicant William Barden submitted an Application to have a tree pruned or removed. Mr. Robinson pointed out that the tree was very large with a lot of die-back in it. The species was undetermined because ivy had overtaken the tree and obscured it. After discussion, it was recommended that the tree be removed.

A Motion to remove the tree at 20 West 10th Street was made and seconded. The Motion was unanimously approved.

File #2018-10 – 32 W. 4th Street

Applicant Mark Miller submitted an Application to have a tree at 34 W. 4th Street that is growing into a hedge pruned. Mr. Robinson noted that it appeared Mr. Miller was referring to a line of four trees on Foundry Street that are very close to the street that could use some pruning. Mr. Antonio looked only at the tree in front of 32 W. 4th Street. Mr. Boyce asked if the trees are in the public right-of-way, but Mr. Robinson was not sure. After discussion, it was decided that since the Commissioners were unable to determine exactly which tree Mr. Miller referenced in his Application, the matter would be tabled for

further review. Mr. Boyce added that it should also be determined if the tree in question is in the public right-of-way.

File #2018-11 – 126 E. 4th Street

Applicant Joy Fischer submitted an Application to have trees on properties adjoining her residence pruned. Mr. Robinson noted that there were some small branches infringing on the house and Mr. Antonio suggested a light trim. Mr. Robinson stated that MSC could do the job.

A Motion to have a light trimming of trees adjacent to 126 E. 4th Street was made and seconded. The Motion was unanimously approved.

File #2018-12 – 40 E. 5th Street

Applicant Anne Usilton submitted an application to remove a tree that appears to be dying. After discussion, it was recommended that the tree be removed.

A Motion to remove a tree at 40 E. 5th Street was made and seconded. The Motion was unanimously approved.

Miscellaneous

Budget – Mr. Boyce asked if the City tree budget had been reduced. Mr. Robinson advised that the Commission was budgeted \$10,000, which will not allow much work to be done. Mr. Robinson sent a letter to Linda Ratchford outlining the Commission's plans. He added that the only work that should be done is removing the trees on Harmony Street between 3rd and 4th Streets and replanting. MSC has agreed to take the trees out and grind the stumps and the Commission would pay for 6-8 trees and the planting fee. Mr. Robinson asked the Commissioners to consider what species of tree should be planted.

Rt. 273 Plantings – Mr. Boyce asked for an update on the trees to be planted along Rt. 273 between 141 and Penn Farm. Mr. Robinson advised that if the work is to be done the Trustees would do it.

Mr. Antonio asked for an update on the opposing trees on 7th Street. Mr. Robinson advised that the Commission will not have funding to do any planting. He suggested the Trustees have been talking about that planting. Mr. Robinson will ask for an update.

8th Street Plantings – Mr. Robinson brought up a request Ms. Joan Smith made at the May Commission Meeting to have plantings between the railroad and 8th Street and between South Street and the house in the middle of the block. He briefly reviewed the discussion from the May Meeting. Mr. Robinson suggested that some fairly large trees could be planted approximately 20' back and asked Mr. Boyce if he could submit a conceptual plan for a buffer of several rows of trees that would be reviewed by the Commissioners. Several tree species were discussed, including Crepe Myrtles and Arborvitae. Mr. Boyce noted that deer could be a problem with Arborvitae. Mr. Robinson suggested the trees might be obtained for \$200-\$250 each, and perhaps less if evergreens were used.

Tree Maintenance –

Mr. Robinson requested the City water the trees planted on Delaware Street next to the cemetery.

Mr. Antonio advised a Lilac Tree in the Memorial Garden was dead, and Mr. Robinson noted that planting the tree had been delayed several weeks.

An Elm Tree on 3rd Street needs to be watered. Mr. Robinson and Ron Vukelich inspected the tree, and loosened the clay at the base of the tree which was impeding watering.

Mr. Boyce asked for an update on planting trees in front of the Courthouse. Mr. Robinson spoke with the City, and was advised the State is planning to do something.

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

A Motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:25 pm was made, seconded and unanimously approved.

Kathy Weirich
Stenographer