

MINUTES
City of New Castle Tree Advisory Commission
April 1, 2019 – 4 p.m.
New Castle Town Hall

Members Present: David Robinson, Chairman
Tom Maddux
John Lloyd
John Antonio

Members Absent: Marco Boyce

Mr. Robinson called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Roll call followed and a quorum was declared.

New Applications

5 West 10th Street

Mr. Guido DeAscanis, III, came forward and explained that tree roots of two Sycamore trees in front of 5 West 10th Street were damaging the curb and were clogging the sewer line. He added that the sewer line had been cleaned by 24 Hour Plumbing & Drains four times from March 2018 to December 2018.

Copies of the pertinent bills were submitted with the Application.

Mr. Robinson clarified the location of the sewer line and the trees to determine which tree was affecting the curb and which was affecting the sewer line. Mr. Antonio added that Mr. John Ioannoni, had also experienced sewer line issues due to the Sycamore tree root system. Mr. Lloyd asked if the County had inspected the sewer line, and Mr. DeAscanis advised that to his knowledge they had not. Mr. Robinson noted that Sycamore trees were noted for being invasive; however, those were the only two trees on the street. Mr. DeAscanis stated he would be happy to have new trees replanted.

After discussion, it was agreed that if the trees are causing damage and Mr. DeAscanis is willing to replace them with an approved species, the trees would be removed.

A Motion to remove the trees and have them replaced with a suitable species was made, seconded and approved.

Mr. DeAscanis stated he was open to recommendations for a replacement species of tree and agreed to choose a species from the approved list of trees.

Mr. Lloyd asked that Mr. DeAscanis and his neighbor identify where the sewer line comes from their homes in order to place the trees appropriately.

Mr. Robinson advised that the City crew would take the trees down.

Minutes

A Motion to approve the Minutes of the January 7, 2019, meeting as presented was made, seconded and unanimously approved.

New Business

1200 Delaware Street

Mr. Lloyd brought up an issue with a dead tree at 1200 Delaware Street. It was determined the tree is not on City property, and the residence is owned by Mr. Guido DeAscanis, II. Mr. Lloyd explained the situation to Mr. Guido DeAscanis, III, and he advised he would discuss the situation with his father.

Ash Trees

Mr. Robinson discussed the proposal from Bartlett Tree Experts regarding treatment of Ash trees at various locations in the City for \$5,000.00. Mr. Robinson and Mr. Barthel discussed the situation and agreed that the cost would be split between the 2019 and 2020 budgets.

2nd Street

Mr. Ron Vukelich wanted to plant a tree along 2nd Street; however, when the bricks were taken up, an unground stump was discovered. After discussion, it was recommended that the tree be planted further down the Street. Mr. Robinson will give the recommendation to Mr. Vukelich.

Garrison Apartments

The Commissioners discussed plantings in front of the Garrison Apartments. Mr. Lloyd noted that plantings should be part of the Plan, and the City should not be responsible for those plantings. Mr. Robinson advised he discussed the issue with Mr. Casale.

New Plantings

Mr. Lloyd asked how the plantings were doing in the Bull Hill Meadow by the Dyke, and Mr. Antonio advised they were doing well.

Trustees of the New Castle Common

Mr. Robinson noted that at the January meeting it was suggested that a letter to the Trustees of the New Castle Common be drafted regarding three issues: 1) mulching, 2) care of trees, and 3) the Kentucky Coffeetrees by the tennis court. He stated that he and Mr. Lloyd met with Mr. Tom Episcopo, who is on the Committee responsible for the trees. Mr. Lloyd noted that Mr. Episcopo advised he would take care of the trees, but asked the Commission to identify specifically which trees are at issue. During discussion, it was noted that the original request was to plant Yellowwood trees aka *Cladrastis kentukea*; however, Kentucky Coffeetrees were planted instead.

Mr. Robinson noted that he and Mr. Episcopo also discussed care for the trees behind Town Hall, and Bartlett Tree Experts have already submitted a proposal to do the work.

Mr. Antonio also noted that the trees in front of the Library will be removed, and Mr. Episcopo advised the Trustees are willing to plant a species chosen by the Commission as a replacement as a gesture of goodwill. Mr. Robinson suggested a Japanese Snowbell tree as a suitable replacement.

5th Street between Harmony and Delaware

Mr. Robinson noted that a tree had been removed from 5th Street across the street from St. Peters Church, and a replacement tree has been ordered.

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

A Motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:37 pm was made, seconded and unanimously approved.

Kathy Weirich
Stenographer