

MINUTES
City of New Castle Tree Advisory Commission
October 8, 2018 – 4 p.m.
New Castle Town Hall

Members Present: Tom Maddux
Marco Boyce
John Lloyd

Members Absent: David Robinson, Chair
John Antonio

Mr. Maddux called the meeting to order at 3:59 p.m. Roll call followed and a quorum was declared. The secretary advised that Mr. Maddux needed to depart the meeting no later than 4:50 pm.

In Mr. Robinson's absence, Mr. Maddux acted as Chair of the meeting. He advised that the Applications for the two Applicants present would be reviewed first.

New Applications

File #2018-26

Marie Gatter – 122 Harmony Street

Ms. Gatter submitted an Application to have branches of a Chinese Elm tree that are in close contact with the house pruned. Ms. Gatter advised that the tree has some branches that are making contact with the windows of the 2nd story of the house. She added that in an ice storm the previous year, some branches were in contact with the windshield of the neighbor's car. She advised that she had contacted Kerns Brothers Tree Service to have the offending branches trimmed back.

A Motion to approve having the tree trimmed by Kerns Brothers Tree Service was made, seconded and carried.

File #2018-25

Theodore Megginson – 605 Tremont Street

Mr. Megginson submitted an Application regarding a large Pin Oak in front of his house, approximately 40 years old, that appears to be dying. He explained there were numerous dead branches hanging over the house, electrical wires, and reaching to the driveway. He added that the City had trimmed dead limbs hanging over Tremont Street. He also expressed his concern for safety due to limbs breaking off over the sidewalk. Mr. Megginson noted that the tree is not producing as many acorns as in the past. He also stated that if the tree is removed, he would like to have it replaced with a non-flowering species.

Mr. Boyce clarified that the City had trimmed branches, and Mr. Megginson advised that they had trimmed the branches overhanging Tremont Street, but not limbs over his house.

Mr. Lloyd noted that he had inspected the tree, and that it is dying back. He recommended that the tree be removed.

A Motion to have the Pin Oak removed and a new tree that is satisfactory to the property owner planted in its place as soon as possible was made, seconded and carried.

File #2018-23

Alice Jarvis / Amstel House – 15 The Strand

The Applicant submitted an Application to remove an overhanging branch of one Red Maple. Mr. Lloyd stated that upon inspection, he noted there was a Gum tree and a Maple tree adjacent to the property, and it appeared the area had already been cleared. After discussion, it was agreed that the Application be tabled until the property owners can be contacted to determine exactly what they want done. Mr. Lloyd will contact the property owners and report back to the Commission.

File #2018-21

Guido DeAscanis, III – 5 West 10th Street

Mr. DeAscanis submitted an Application to have two Sycamore trees removed due to root damage to the curb and clogging the sewer line. Mr. Lloyd inspected the property and advised that there are two trees approximately 2' in diameter each that are pushing on the curbing. He added that one of the trees has a root going toward the house. He recommended that without further information, the trees should not be removed and that the property owner be contacted to explain the Commission's position. Mr. Boyce added that the Commission had reviewed the two trees at a prior meeting and that the trees appeared to be healthy and should not be removed.

A Motion that the trees not be removed due to their healthful growing condition and that there are other means to resolve roots growing in the sewer line was made, seconded and carried.

File #2018-22

Barbara Kuczarski – 1 Battery Park

Ms. Kuczarski submitted an Application regarding a Willow tree on City property that overhangs her property. Mr. Lloyd advised that Ms. Kuczarski has concerns about liability in the event a limb should fall and cause injury to someone who may be on her property at the time of the incident. He added that the tree is healthy. After discussion, it was agreed that liability issues are not in the purview of the Commission. It was noted that the Commission should protect the City from any hazardous conditions; however the tree in question is not presenting a hazard. It was agreed that Mr. Robinson will contact the City Administration and advise them of Ms. Kuczarski's concerns regarding liability, with the recommendation that the City discuss the issue with the property owner.

File #2018-24

Bob Weber – 126 Harmony Street

Mr. Weber submitted an Application to have tree limbs overhanging his roof trimmed back. Mr. Lloyd advised that the tree had been trimmed back approximately 4-5 years ago, and the limbs have grown back and should be trimmed. He added that he did not think City personnel would do the pruning. Mr. Maddux noted that the Applicant did not indicate a Contractor on the Application. Mr. Lloyd recommended that the Application be approved as presented. Mr. Boyce added he thought the tree was a Red Maple.

A Motion that Application 2018-24 be approved for pruning to clear the structure was made, seconded and carried.

Minutes

A Motion to approve the Minutes of the September 10, 2018, meeting as presented was made, seconded and carried.

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

A Motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:17 pm was made, seconded and unanimously approved.

Kathy Weirich
Stenographer