

MINUTES
City of New Castle Tree Advisory Commission
July 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.

Minutes

Mr. Lloyd asked for clarification on the Motion made with regard to the Norway Maple at 519 Delaware Street, noting that he believed the Norway Maple is actually in front of 511 Delaware Street. The June 3, 2019, Minutes will be corrected to reflect the correct address.

A Motion to approve the Minutes of the June 3, 2019, meeting as amended was made, seconded and unanimously approved.

New Applications

2019-09 – 607 Deemer Place – Lena Deemer

An Application was made to have a Mulberry Tree pruned to remove low hanging branch and branches that interfere with power lines. Mr. Robinson stated a determination needs to be made as to whether the tree is on private property or is a City tree. After discussion, it was agreed that the Application will be deferred until the September meeting pending a determination of ownership from either Mr. Casale or Mr. Bergstrom.

2019-08 – 35 West 5th Street – Julianne LaBadia

An Application was filed to remove a large Oak Tree and allow a tree to be planted on the street side in front of the house. After discussion, it was agreed the tree should be removed.

A Motion to have a large Oak Tree at 35 West 5th Street was made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

2019-10 – 54 East 4th Street – Nancy Coning

An application was filed to have a large Ash tree pruned. Mr. Robinson noted that the tree branches come far across the roof, and he will submit the request to Mr. Barthel to see if the City wishes to do the pruning.

2019-11 – 519 Delaware Street – Mark Marconi

An Application was filed to have a tree in front of 519 Delaware Street that appears to be dying and has a severe fungal condition be removed. Mr. Robinson advised the tree on the Application is already on the list to be removed and no action is required.

2019-12 – 44 West 4th Street – Susan Campbell

An application was filed to have a tree in front of 44 West 4th Street evaluated for replacement. After discussion, the Commissioners agreed the tree should be removed.

A Motion to have a tree removed at 44 West 4th Street was made, seconded and unanimously approved.

Miscellaneous

Budget

Mr. Robinson advised that the Tree Advisory Commission budget for the upcoming year is \$10,000. During discussion, Mr. Robinson noted that even though the City is doing much of the tree removal work, grinding the stumps must be outsourced; and removal of some of the very large trees must also be outsourced.

Amstel House

Mr. Lloyd asked for an update on the trees at the Amstel House, and Mr. Robinson advised they are on the list for removal. Mr. Robinson added that the Commission had made a recommendation and it was passed on to Mr. Barthel along with a number of other recommendations. Mr. Lloyd noted that the trees around the Amstel House present a hazard and a potential liability to the City. On Mr. Lloyd's recommendation, Mr. Robinson will send a follow-up letter to the City regarding the subject trees.

Harmony & 3rd Street

Mr. Maddux advised that he had a conversation with Mr. Short, who requested that two trees be removed; however only one tree was removed. Mr. Robinson stated that the second tree is on the list provided to the City.

702 Tremont

Mr. Lloyd advised that Mr. Silvio Sabatini contacted him to have an Ash Tree removed; however, no formal application has been filed. Mr. Lloyd noted that the tree is dying back from the top down and recommended that an arborist be consulted to evaluate the tree.

A Motion to consult with an arborist to determine the health status of an Ash Tree at 702 Tremont was made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

New Trees

Mr. Antonio noted that the new Crepe Myrtles on both roads need to be trimmed. Mr. Robinson added that the new Plane trees across the street also need to be trimmed up. Mr. Lloyd noted that the trees in Cedar Swamp River still have stakes on them, and Mr. Antonio advised he is aware of the situation and will take care of having the stakes removed. After a discussion of a number of other trees that need to be trimmed up, several of the Commissioners volunteered to do some trimming. Mr. Lloyd noted that Black Locust trees seem to tolerate the urban environment very well and do not disrupt the surrounding area very much. He added that street trees typically have a 30-40 year life span, and many of the City trees have been there far longer.

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

A Motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:27 pm was made, seconded and unanimously approved.

Kathy Weirich
Stenographer