

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

Members Present: John Antonio, Chairman
 Tom Maddux
 John Lloyd

Members Absent: Marco Boyce

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

Minutes

July 1, 2019, Meeting

A Motion to approve the Minutes of the July 1, 2019, meeting as presented was made, seconded and unanimously approved.

October 7, 2019, Meeting

Mr. Lloyd noted that the request to have a tree removed at 35 West 5th Street had, in fact, been approved by the Commission at the July 1, 2019, meeting. He added that the homeowner can choose a replacement species from the list of approved species. Mr. Antonio will reach out to Mr. Barthel to reply to the homeowner's original email.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ken Oppenheimer – 36 East 5th Street

Mr. Oppenheimer asked for advice from the Commissioners regarding a tree in the front of his house that has broken into the sewer pipe. He advised that his homeowner's insurance company advised they did not cover either the damaged pipe or any structural damage that may have been sustained to the foundation of his house. He added that there are cable TV and electric cables that are also being affected. He asked if there were any alternatives to the situation available to him. Mr. Lloyd advised that the cable company does not care if their cables pass through a tree, and the Electric Company would take care of their cable. During discussion, Mr. Oppenheimer advised that he did not know the species of tree, that it is approximately as high as his three-story house, and is approximately 10" in diameter. Mr. Lloyd and Mr. Antonio will inspect the tree. Mr. Maddux clarified that the sewer pipes needed repair and Mr. Oppenheimer advised that Scalia Plumbing & Heating did the repair at a cost of \$295.00. Mr. Lloyd noted that Artesian Water has excellent insurance for sewer pipe damage that includes the home interior. Mr. Lloyd advised that the only two options available to Mr. Oppenheimer through the Commission would be for him to periodically tend to the roots so they do not affect the pipes, or have the tree removed. Mr. Lloyd recommended that Mr. Oppenheimer file a City Tree Work Permit Application.

Russ Smith

Mr. Smith thanked the Commission for the new trees on Chestnut Street and commended the Commissioners for their dedication to the City. He added that if the Commission has an Annual Plan he would like to receive a copy.

NEW APPLICATIONS

2019-16 – 158 East 4th Street – Vivienne Cameron

Ms. Cameron submitted an Application to have two trees in front of her house pruned due to dead branches and encroachment on the wires, siding and gutters of her home. Mr. Maddux noted the subject trees are Cherry trees and added that the Commission had previously discussed the 4th Street Cherry Trees on both the East and West sides. Mr. Lloyd noted that the trees could be pruned, but wondered if they should be removed.

A Motion to prune two Cherry trees at 158 East 4th Street was made, seconded and unanimously approved.

2019-17 – 26 The Strand - Sandra Beale for the Historical Society

Ms. Beale submitted an Application on behalf of the Historical Society to have a Zelkovia tree that is interfering with the growth of four native trees in the New Castle Society Native Plant Garden be pruned. During discussion it was noted that the Commission would like to have the Zelkovia trees in the City removed. It was suggested that the homeowner to the East of the Garden be consulted to see if they had any objection to pruning or removal of the tree. Mr. Lloyd noted that it is difficult to prune a Zelkovia tree and keep the aesthetic integrity of the tree and added that the tree had been abusively pruned in the past to accommodate electric wires. Mr. Maddux noted his preference to having the tree removed, and agreed that the neighbor should be advised of the plan. Mr. Lloyd noted that the City could do the removal.

A Motion to remove a Zelkovia tree on 4th Street at the entrance to the Native Plant Garden and replace it with several other trees of an approved species, with the condition that the neighbor to the East be consulted to determine if they had an objection to the removal, was made, seconded and unanimously approved.

2019-18 – 106 West 10th Street – Dominick A. Alvini

Mr. Alvini submitted an Application to have a Cedar tree in front of his house removed, noting the tree is leaning towards the house and he is worried that it will fall. After discussion, it was agreed that the tree should be removed and several new trees planted of an approved species. Mr. Lloyd noted that the City could handle the tree removal.

A Motion to remove a Cedar tree in front of 106 West 10th Street and several new trees of an approved species be planted was made, seconded and unanimously approved.

2019-19 – 106 West 10th Street – Dominick a. Alvini

Mr. Alvini submitted an Application remove two trees at the rear of his property due to difficulty of pruning and a concern that falling branches will cause damage to personal property.

A Motion to approve the removal of two trees at the rear of 106 West 10th Street was made, seconded and unanimously approved.

MISCELLANEOUS

Mr. Lloyd advised that the City has not yet removed the tree at 10 East 4th Street that is a hazard. Mr. Antonio spoke with Mr. Casale and was told the City was aware of the tree and would be removing it. Mr. Lloyd noted that the Certified Arborist stated it was very important that the tree be removed as soon as possible. Mr. Antonio will resubmit the request to the City and emphasize that the tree is a hazard.

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There being no further business, Mr. Antonio called for a Motion to adjourn the meeting.
A Motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:23 pm was made, seconded and unanimously approved.

Kathy Weirich
Stenographer