

MINUTES
City of New Castle Tree Advisory Commission
June 3, 2024 – 5:00 p.m.
1 Municipal Boulevard

Members Present: Carl Benson, Chair
Art Walker
Alice Riehl
Scot Savitch
Wolcott Davis

Also Present: Norman Lehr

Mr. Benson called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Roll call followed and a quorum to conduct business was declared.

Minutes

A motion to approve the May 6, 2024, minutes as presented was made, seconded and unanimously passed.

Old Business

Brandywine Valley Services

Mr. Benson reported that the quote for work on Gray Street, 21 Holcomb Lane, 111 Brylgon Avenue, and trees on 7th Street (Markell Trail) is \$2650. Work at 912 Clayton Street will be done by city staff.

Caltapa Tree – 117 East 2nd Street – Mr. Benson reported that he is unsure if his request to have the city pay for the core sample will be approved, and he recommended that the TAC consider ways to raise funds. Approximately \$1,600 is needed. Several ideas to raise funds were discussed, including a go-fund-me page and putting a request for funds in The Weekly. Mr. Benson will draft a communication to submit to The Weekly.

STATUS: A request for funds to conduct a core sample of the Caltapa Tree will be submitted to The Weekly.

2024-03 – Mr. Cuenca – 1011 Washington Street – Mr. Benson reported that the trees on Washington Street are on State property and the city is not responsible for them.

STATUS: The trees on Washington Street are on State property and not within the purview of the city or the TAC. This application can be closed.

New Business

Application 2024-08 – Roderick & Geraldine Gillespie – 24 West 4th Street

An application was submitted to have a tree replanted where a tree was removed in front of their house. They requested a Persian Ironwood. Mr. Benson will review the tree inventory with Mr. Vukelich.

A motion to table Application 2024-08 to the July meeting was made, seconded and unanimously passed.

STATUS: Application tabled to the July meeting.

Application 2024-09 – Sabrina Tapley – 107 North Katrin Circle

An application was submitted to have a tree pruned that overhangs the fence at the back of the property. It was thought that the tree may be under the purview of the Buttonwood Maintenance Corporation. Mr. Walker will research ownership of the tree.

A motion to table Application 2024-09 to the July meeting pending determination of ownership of the tree was made, seconded and unanimously passed.

STATUS: Application tabled to the July meeting pending determination of ownership of the tree.

Member Comments/Discussion:

Budget – Ms. Riehl gave an update of the status of the balance of TAC funds under the current budget. Based on outstanding invoices from Brandywine Valley Services and Bartlett Tree Services (for Ash Bore treatment), it appears that the TAC is over budget by \$550 plus fees for use of the Municipal Room at the Police Station. Mr. Benson stated that any new requests for tree work will need to be put on hold until the new budget is approved.

A discussion of what Ash trees are being treated and how often they are being treated ensued. Messrs. Davis and Lehr opined that treatment is not done on an annual basis, and trees that are not healthy should not be treated.

Mr. Savitch will attend the next City Council Budget Workshop.

Miscellaneous

Fall Planting – Mr. Vukelich reached out to Mr. Benson regarding fall plantings. Ms. Riehl and Mr. Benson will discuss fall planting with Mr. Vukelich.

Next Meeting – The next TAC meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 1st. A quorum of members stated that they would be available to attend the July meeting as scheduled.

There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Benson called for a motion to adjourn.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Benson and seconded by Mr. Savitch. The motion was unanimously carried and the meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen R. Weirich
City Stenographer