

MINUTES  
City of New Castle Tree Advisory Commission  
December 2, 2024 – 5:00 p.m.  
1 Municipal Boulevard

Members Present: Carl Benson, Chair  
Art Walker  
Edward Ryan

Absent: Wolcott Davis

Also Present: Norman Lehr  
Alice Riehl

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 was made by Mr. Walker to defer approval of the November 4, 2024 minutes to the January 2025 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ryan and unanimously carried.**

**Public Comment**

Milton Bilecki – 159 Casimir Drive

Mr. Bilecki requested an update on Application 2024-24. Mr. Benson stated that Application 2024-24 had been approved and removal of a Bradford Pear tree located at 159 Casimir Drive has been added to the City Tree List. Mr. Benson added that an appropriate species of tree will be replanted at an appropriate distance from the lamppost. Mr. Bilecki stated that he did not wish to have a new tree replanted; noting that if a new tree is replanted it would be in front of 161 Casimir Drive. Mr. Benson stated that no tree will be replanted before the Commission inspects the site and speaks with the owner of 161 Casimir Drive.

Norman Lear

Mr. Lear asked for an update on the Ash Bore treatment. Mr. Benson stated that the matter had been forwarded to Mr. Delgado and Ms. Tantillo but an update has not yet been received. Mr. Benson will follow-up with both Mr. Delgado and Ms. Tantillo and report back to the Commission. In response to a question from Mr. Ryan, Mr. Benson noted where the Ash trees in question are located; and he will forward a copy of the list to Mr. Ryan. During discussion, it was noted that treatment of the trees comes out of the TAC budget. Mr. Lehr recommended that the matter be resolved before the next treatment is made.

Alice Riehl

Ms. Riehl stated that Ms. Souder informed her that because splitting the TAC budget funds into Plantings and Removals is an internal decision by the TAC, the City Council does not need to take any action and a Resolution is not necessary. Mr. Benson noted that the TAC approved

presenting the matter to City Council; and the Commissioner appointed as Treasurer will be notified and will be in charge of allocating funds properly.

**Old Business/Tabled Applications/Old Applications:**

Application 2024-11 – Lillian Shue – 17 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street

Mr. Ryan stated that there is still a small stump that needs to be ground down.

**ACTION: Add Application 2024-11 to the January Agenda as Old Business.**

Application 2024-13 – Fred Wright – 104 West 6<sup>th</sup> Street

Mr. Benson stated that an estimate for pruning has not yet been received.

**ACTION: Add application 2024-13 to the January Agenda as Old Business.**

Application 2024-27 – David DiAngelo – 308 Moore Avenue

Mr. Benson stated that the six Cherry trees on 14<sup>th</sup> Street were approved to be trimmed. Mr. Benson will follow-up with Mr. Delgado and report back to the commission in January.

**ACTION: Add Application 2024-27 to the January Agenda as Old Business.**

Application 2021-12 – Rod Miller – 124 East 3<sup>rd</sup> Street

Application 2024-28 – Rod Miller – 124 East 3<sup>rd</sup> Street

Mr. Benson stated that the tree is overhanging the street in front of Mr. Miller's house and was overhanging the roof. Mr. Benson recommended that the tree be removed.

**A motion to remove a tree located at 124 East 3<sup>rd</sup> Street and replace it with an approved species for that area was made by Mr. Benson. The motion was seconded by Mr. Walker and unanimously carried.**

**ACTION: Add to the City Tree List for removal. Applications 2021-12 and 2024-28 can be closed.**

**New Business/New Applications**

Application 2024-28 – Mitzi and Chris Buchanan – 158 East 3<sup>rd</sup> Street

An application was received requesting one or two European Hornbeam trees be planted in front of 158 East 3<sup>rd</sup> Street. Mr. Benson stated it would be an excellent place to plant a new tree.

**A motion was made by Mr. Benson to add planting a tree in front of 158 East 3<sup>rd</sup> Street in the spring to the City Tree Planting List. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ryan and unanimously carried.**

**ACTION: Add Application 2024-28 to the City Tree Planting List. Application 2024-28 can be closed.**

### **Budget Report**

At Mr. Benson's request, Ms. Riehl gave a report on the TAC Budget:

Opening Total as of 12/2/24: \$21,191.83

#### **Pending Items:**

- Brandywine Valley \$ 2,650.00 - trimming
- Plantings \$ 8,840.00
- Brandywine Valley \$ 1,705.00 – stump grinding

#### **Budget Recap:**

- Planting \$ 6,660.00
- Maintenance \$10,665.00

These figures do not include payments for security at TAC meetings.

In response to a question from Mr. Benson, Ms. Riehl explained that a bill from Brandywine Valley for trimming (\$2,650) has not yet been submitted. However, a bill was submitted for stump grinding (\$1,705). Mr. Benson will follow-up with Ms. Delgado.

### **Spring Planting Plan**

Mr. Benson identified tasks that need to be accomplished for spring plantings:

- Make an inventory of empty tree pits needs to be made to identify how many trees will be needed. Mr. Ryan volunteered to work on the tree pit inventory.
- Research older Applications to make an inventory of plantings that have been approved to determine if trees have been planted or if plantings are still outstanding. Mr. Benson will research older Applications.
- Discuss plantings with Gateway and order trees. Mr. Lehr stated that an order for spring planting should have been submitted in August. He added that there are still some trees available, but he did not know if they are on the TAC Tree List. There are also still some trees at Penn Farm. Mr. Benson will check on the inventory at Penn Farm. Mr. Lehr suggested that TAC review plantings that have been committed to as a priority. He opined that 10-12 trees would be doable with the funds available in the budget.

### **Extended Watering Plan**

Watering bags that are still in place need to be removed. Mr. Benson will ask Mr. Delgado if the City can remove the water bags. If necessary, Messrs. Ryan and Benson will work on removing the bags.

### **Miscellaneous**

Damaged Tree – Ms. Riehl asked for an update on the tree that appears to have been damaged and is overhanging West 3<sup>rd</sup> Street. Mr. Benson asked Ms. Riehl to submit a formal application to TAC.

Tree Advisory Commission  
December 2, 2024

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

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Ryan and seconded by Mr. Walker. The motion was unanimously carried and the meeting adjourned at 5:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen R. Weirich  
City Stenographer