

MINUTES
City of New Castle Tree Advisory Commission
Zoom Meeting July 6, 2020 – 4 p.m.
New Castle Town Hall

Members Present: John Antonio, Chairman
 Tom Maddux
 Sheila Shannont
 Scot Savitch
 Judi Baldini

Also Present: Ron Vukelich

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

MINUTES

A Motion to approve the Minutes of the March 2, 2020, meeting as presented was made, seconded and unanimously approved.

NEW APPLICATIONS

2020-03 – 56 The Strand – Patrick Crichton on behalf of Patricia Crichton

An Application was submitted to remove one Crabapple tree that is dead from the property and replace it with another Crabapple tree. Mr. Maddux provided background on the subject tree.

After discussion, a Motion to have the Crabapple tree removed by MSC was made, seconded and approved.

The Chairman recognized Mr. Vukelich who requested approval to comment on the Motion. Mr. Vukelich explained that the subject tree was removed approximately two months ago by the City. He added that Mr. Crichton was adamant about replacing the tree with another Crabapple tree.

2020-04 – 134 East 2nd Street – Susan Orchard

Ms. Orchard submitted an Application to have a dead tree branch from a Zelcova tree removed.

Mr. Maddux noted that the Zelcova appears to have a number of dead branches and suggested that MSC inspect the tree. The Commission has previously recommended removal of a tree pending approval from the property owner and neighbors. During discussion it was noted that there are a number of trees on the street that should be removed

A Motion to remove and replace a Zelcova tree at 134 East 2nd Street pending approval of the homeowner, and speak with other property owners on the street to seek approval to have several other trees removed and replaced as well, was made and seconded. On vote, the Motion was unanimously approved.

534 Delaware Street – Nancy Hedges

The Applicant submitted an Application to have a Sycamore tree on the 6th Street side of the property pruned.

Mr. Maddux stated that the Sycamore has a number of large limbs that overhang the house, and opined that if the homeowner is concerned that their house could be damaged there could be potential liability to

the City. He recommended that the City remove the limb. Mr. Antonio provided background of the subject tree and Application. He stated that he and the City Administrator had discussed the tree and that the City was to have attended to the matter. Mr. Antonio will contact the City Administrator to determine the City's plan and ensure that the tree is worked on.

A Motion to approve trimming tree limbs overhanging the property at 534 Delaware Street was made and seconded. On vote, the Motion was unanimously approved.

1016 Clayton Street – Annita King

Ms. King submitted an Application to have three to five Swamp Maple trees in the bike path off 10th and Delaware Streets behind her house pruned.

The Commissioners did not have an opportunity to inspect the trees and after discussion it was decided to hold the Application over to the next Tree Advisory Commission Meeting. Mr. Antonio will speak with Mr. Casale, Code Enforcement Officer, to determine if the trees are City or County owned.

MOTION

Mr. Maddux and Mr. Vukelich presented a Motion for approval that the sidewalk trees planted in New Castle City be limited to the following list and that each proposed planting be approved by the Tree Advisory Commission.:

- **Acer grisium: Common Name: paperbark maple. No cultivars**
- **Acer rubrum: Common Name: Red Maple. Cultivar: Red Rocket**
- **Amelanchier arborea: Common Name: downy serviceberry Cultivars: Autumn Brilliance, Spring Flurry, SnowCloud**
- **Carpinus caroliniana: Common Name: American Hornbeam**
- **Carpinus japonica: Common Name: Japanese hornbeam**
- **Cercis Canadensis: Common Name: Eastern Redbud Cultivar: Summer's Tower**
- **Cornus: Common Name: Dogwood Cultivar: Cherokee Princess**
- **Crataegus viridis: Common Name: Green Hawthorne Cultivars: Winter King**
- **Ginkgo biloba: Common Name: Maiden Hair Tree Cultivar: Magyar**
- **Liriodendrum tulipera: Common Name: Tulip Tree Cultivar- Little Volunteer**
- **Parrotia persica: Common Name: Persian parrotia Cultivar: Ruby Vase, Vanessa**
- **Tilia cordata: Common name: Little leaf linden Cultivar: Summer Sprout**

The Motion was seconded.

During discussion, it was explained that the Motion refers specifically to trees planted on the curb side adjacent to the roadway to prevent uplifting of the brick sidewalks in the City. The list can be modified in the future by Motion to add or remove species from the list as appropriate. Additionally, if a homeowner wishes to have a tree planted that is not on the list, an Application can be submitted to the Tree Advisory Commission for consideration. Mr. Vukelich is planting whips in the Read House Community Garden that can be accessed by the City for planting when they mature.

It was recommended that the Motion be amended to allow the list to be revised from time to time. Mr. Maddux and Mr. Vukelich withdrew their Motion and submitted an amended Motion as follows:

Mr. Maddux and Mr. Vukelich presented a Motion for approval that the sidewalk trees planted in New Castle City be limited to the following list and that each proposed planting be approved by the Tree Advisory Commission. The list will be reviewed on a regular basis and is subject to change.:

- **Acer grisium: Common Name: paperbark maple. No cultivars**
- **Acer rubrum: Common Name: Red Maple. Cultivar: Red Rocket**
- **Amelanchier arborea: Common Name: downy serviceberry Cultivars: Autumn Brilliance, Spring Flurry, SnowCloud**
- **Carpinus caroliniana: Common Name: American Hornbeam**
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- **Liriodendrum tulipera: Common Name: Tulip Tree Cultivar- Little Volunteer**
- **Parrotia persica: Common Name: Persian parrotia Cultivar: Ruby Vase, Vanessa**
- **Tilia cordata: Common name: Little leaf linden Cultivar: Summer Sprout**

The Motion was seconded. On vote, the Motion was unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Tree City USA Bulletin

Ms. Shannott will provide the Tree City USA Bulletin published by the Arbor Day Foundation to Mr. Maddux.

NEW BUSINESS

Tree Advisory Commission Meeting Schedule

Mr. Maddux questioned the Tree Advisory Commission meeting schedule on the City website, noting that it states "The Tree Advisory Commission will hold a minimum of four public meetings per year at the call of the Chairperson. One of the required meetings will be held in the fall and the second in the spring. Notice of meetings will be publicly displayed so as to inform and encourage the public to attend." and asked for a clarification of the statement. He added that under Powers and Duties §72-2 (D) states "To make recommendations to the City Administrator for tree species suitable for streetscape plantings."

Ms. Burgmuller explained that the Tree Advisory Commission does not typically have a meeting in August. She added that although a Tree Advisory Commission meeting is scheduled each month except August, if no applications are received the meeting can be cancelled; however, the Commission is required to meet at least four times each year.

Encyclopedias

Mr. Antonio thanked Mr. Vukelich for the Dirr's Encyclopedia of Trees and Shrubs.

Tree Farm

Ms. Baldini noted that the NCCP would be open to exploring the use of Penn Farm for a small tree farm for use by the City of New Castle and suggested that maintaining the trees could be partnered with William Penn's Agricultural Group.

Mr. Vukelich currently plants whips at the George Read Community Garden. He stated that five years ago the idea of starting a tree farm was explored with Greenways, the Trustees, and Penn Farm and

because of logistics and maintenance none of those inquiries yielded a satisfactory outcome; however, he opined that it was an idea worth investigating again and he will explore options for getting whips.

August Tree Advisory Commission Meeting

Mr. Antonio noted that historically the Tree Advisory Commission does not meet in August and suggested that because the Tree Advisory Commission has not met for several months the Commission meet in August. Mr. Maddux suggested that December would be a better month to suspend a meeting. After discussion, it was agreed that the Commission would meet on August 3rd.

There being no further business to discuss, the Meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm.

Kathy Weirich
Stenographer