

Shade Tree Commission Minutes
Wednesday, December 4, 2019 at 1:00 pm
Village Hall

Next Meetings:

Thursday, February 6, 1 p.m.
Thursday, April 2, 1 p.m.
Thursday, June 4, 1 p.m.
Thursday, August 6, 1 p.m.
Thursday, October 1, 1 p.m.
Thursday, December 3, 1 p.m.

Beth will let office know the meeting dates.

Present: Beth, Marcia, Denny, Hank, Polly, Sheri.

Old Business

1. Memorial & Arbor Day Trees' Records

- a. Memorial & Arbor Day record book – Marcia will create a new book based on the existing Memorial Book owned by Bob. Will include Arboretum trees. Park benches to be included.
- b. Add field to Tree Tracker – Beth to email Ben.
- c. Include with yearly inventory – note this during tree inventory. Check plaque condition.
- d. Add Zones to Book? Table this till next meeting.

2. Service Department – Ben. Table this till next meeting.

- a. Air knifing update
- b. Future upkeep -
 Proposal
 during inventory?
 part time employee preferred over volunteer
- d. New tree planting update

3. Education

- a. Web site up! Sheri to keep it updated.
- b. New resident package – Marcia & Ben. Marcia handed out and reviewed draft. Sheri to pretty it up and bring to next meeting.
- c. Aerial photo – (old one) Beth. Current aerial photo – Marcia to ask friend with drone to take picture.
- d. Walkabouts in 2020: compose a paragraph for Falls News and Resident News. Paul only avail May 30 to September. Will have them in June, July and August. Will be scheduled at another meeting. Polly to consider getting trained on doing this.
- e. Aug 3 Walkabout – 8 people attended.
- f. Add to Resident's Review in spring: what we've done in the past -- #trees, etc. Polly assigned to this.

4. Village Ordinance in Shade Tree Commission book – added.

5. 2019 Tree Inventory – Sheri and Beth to do in January.

- a. Check memorial arbor day trees
- b. Fix the mulch beds and weed.

- c. Check roots and prune suckers.
 - d. Sheri to add to Tree Inventory Policy.
6. Arboretum – Had a rainy dedication.
7. Tree Tracker end of year report- communication tool for Park Bd & Residents - Beth & Ben
8. Planning & Zoning Commission - other community ordinances tree replacement policy – Denny
- a. 2007 Village adopted a RIPARIAN policy from the county, based on data from 5-6 agencies. The policy established a setback from streams and rivers, based on the amount of watershed that drained to that spot. More drainage, more setback. If ‘x’ steepness, ‘x’ was added to the setback.
 - b. Village added Silver and Crystal Lake to the ordinance.
 - c. Last year, a resident’s proposal came to the PZCommission. Based on our policy, setback would have been 175’ from existing lake edge.
 - d. Problem – can’t use river/stream setback criteria for lake setback. PZCommission resolved to look at lake setback separately and make proposal. Over last 10 months looking at modifications to recommend and researched other community shoreline policies.
 - e. Draft of revision to setback is done. Can’t have trees, lawns, construction, pave – to protect that area so it is not highly erodible. Keep area natural to help protect lake. Denny shared the most recent draft.
 - f. The draft also said the setback of removal of trees is very important. If we start protecting just 35’ we might look like Portage Lakes. So, for trees we recommend 70’ setback.
 - g. Will have a grandfather clause for current practices in use by residents on their lots. There will also be options (in draft now) if someone wants to do something beyond what they are already doing – like remove a tree blocking their lake view. They can come to commission for conditional approval – with requirement to plant new tree.
 - h. Marcia expressed concern that the trees should be of comparable species and size. We need to keep our shade canopy in mind.
 - i. This will be discussed further at PZCommission meeting before they present it to Council. Next meeting is Tuesday, December 10.
 - j. Polly thought PZC could save trees outside of RIPARIAN. Denny does not think that is part of the PZC ordinance.
 - k. A separate Tree Commission ordinance should be developed. Ask Alan Siewert for recommendation on other cities’ ordinances. STC could include this on their website and in new resident package.
 - l. Polly to explore an actual tree ordinance.

New Business

- 1. 2019 Review – by Beth.
- 2. Goals for 2020 –
 - a. Develop a Tree Ordinance
 - b. Education/PR:
 - i. Participate in Festival
 - ii. Awareness/PR of what we’ve done.
 - iii. Informational placards hanging on new tree sites – species, how it will grow, how it helps storm water, other benefits, etc.
 - iv. Articles in Falls Press
 - v. Walkabouts
 - vi. Update web page – storm water benefit.