



ALTOONA SHADE TREE COMMISSION
Minutes of July 19, 2017

In attendance: Ted Newkirk, *Chairman*; Jeff Arpino, Chris Harpster - *Shade Tree Commission*; Bill Elmendorf, Al Sam – *certified arborists*, Lee Slusser-*Director*, Marilyn Morgan, *staff*

Ted Newkirk, Chairperson, called the meeting to order.

1 The May 17, 2017 minutes were reviewed and approved; vote by Mr. Arpino, seconded by Mr. Harpster.

2 Public Comment – There were no public comments at the meeting.

3 Lee Slusser introduced the City Arborists William Elmendorf and Alan Sam.

They gave their report and recommendations on two trees at a City-owned island, Morningside and Halleck Place, *as follows*: The trees are big and impressive for scotch pines; they are in good condition, well-shaped with an expected amount of dead limbs; have some bark beetle damaged which the tree is fighting off. Dr. Elmendorf and Mr. Sam also said Cleveland select pear is not an appropriate replacement there. It was noted that one or two residents approached opposed removal.

After some deliberations, the Shade Tree Commission voted to recommend that the two existing scotch pines not be removed and that a Cleveland select pear not be planted. The Commission noted it was not clear why the pines had to be removed to allow erection of a flagpole.

The Arborists pointed out that, one study shows the presence of mature trees increases property values at average of 7% of various types of neighborhoods. Note that there are other, similar studies available.

7th and 8th Street (protected corridors): The Commission voted to allow Penelec to remove the pears on 7th and 8th Streets.

1418 11th Ave (protected corridor): The Commission voted to allow Dr. Petrunak to trim a street tree back from his building.

Mr. Arpino brought up a sight distance issue at Broad and 36th Street; Public Works was notified.

4 Mr. Elmendorf and Mr. Sam, working with the Commission, suggested the following:

*Review and recommend updates to Chapter 679-Trees, *Code of Ordinances*, replacing the function of the 1999 STC Manual and amending the Ordinance.

*Canvass and inventory critical neighborhoods with potential tree problems (input needed by City staff). The Department Director seeks ideas to create such a map.

*Eventually, budgets will be set up, the contracting standards should be revisited, and possibly work with PennDOT to have trees in the medians.

Other Business: There was no other business at this meeting.

The meeting adjourned by vote of Ted Newkirk, seconded by Mr. Harpster, all in favor.

Shade Tree Commission

notes by Lee Slusser/mm