



**ALTOONA SHADE TREE COMMISSION**  
**Minutes of June 20, 2018**

*In attendance:* Ted Newkirk, *Chairperson*; Jeff Arpino, Paula Over, - *Shade Tree Commission*, Alan Sam, *Arborist*, Lee Slusser-*Director*, Marilyn Morgan, *staff*

Ted Newkirk, Chairperson, called the meeting to order.

1. The February 21, 2018 minutes were reviewed and a motion for approval was made by Paula Over, and seconded by Jeff Arpino. Motion passed.
2. **Public Comment** – There were no public comments at the meeting.
3. **Requests for Tree Actions** –
  - a. 1701 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue - Ash Tree in front of Solorshield on 17<sup>th</sup> Street. Mr. Slusser said that when Bennetti Tree Service first treated this tree, he was told that it was in danger of falling onto 17<sup>th</sup> Street. He did not want to take the tree down, he just wants to brace it. Mr. Sam said that he has looked at the tree and the tree is very healthy and what Bennetti has been doing is working well. It is starting to split, right where the major branches start and given a heavy snow or a major storm this branch could come down. One fear is that the branch is located right where one of Solorshield’s glass rooms is located. If it were to come down on that room it could cause major damage. Mr. Sam explained how they brace these is by drilling through the tree and using a piece of cable in the middle, pulling the split together then fasten with washers on both sides and nuts and bolts. Mr. Sam’s suggestion would be to do more than just brace this tree, he said they might want to remove some of leaves and branches to take some of the weight off of the branch. He seems to think that it would be a couple hour job would could get expensive to brace. Mr. Sam thinks that replacing the tree would be the best route to take because it is an Ash Tree and needs to be injected every two years. The tree was planted in 1990 along with all the other trees on the 17<sup>th</sup> Street Corridor, that it might be time start replacing them with smaller trees one at a time. Since, no one has talked with Solorshield about the condition of this tree, Mr. Slusser said he would contact Randy Green tell him what is happening and see what their feelings are about the tree.
  - b. Mr. Sam reported that the second tree on 17<sup>th</sup> Street that he looked at is also split and is actually much worse than the first one. His recommendation would be to take this tree down and replace it. It also being an Ash Tree, he isn’t sure if the treatment which is given at the base of the tree would even reach the crown due to the split.
  - c. 800 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue – Flowering Pear Tree. Mr. Sam said he looked at this tree also and while it is a good healthy tree, it has out grown its space in the sidewalk. A motion was made by Ted Newkirk to give the owner permission to remove the tree and if the owner wants the Shade Tree Commission to pay for removal, it will be brought back to next month’s meeting. Motion was seconded by Paula Over. Motion passed unanimously.
4. **Other Business** -
  1. a. Tree plan – Mr. Slusser passed around a State College Tree Plan for the committee members to look at. He told the committee that as things stand right now the Shade Tree really has no function without a tree plan. A new plan and ordinance would create the Shade Trees function. Mr. Sam would like to see the commission driving around and defining where there are issues. We need to begin an educational program, a tree planting program, standards and processes for



planting, pruning and removal of public trees, especially in protected corridors. Identify and remove potentially dangerous trees. Specify and clarify the roles of the Shade Tree Commission. Expand these roles to land development review where a certain number of trees or more is proposed. Examine the possibility of a city led cooperative sidewalk repair or replacement projects. Seek funding from grants and City Council for planting, pruning and removal of street trees. Prepare an updated recommended tree list for streets and land development. Prepare site design considerations for our website. Develop a strategy for dealing with invasives and treatment against the Emerald Ash Borer. Identify neighborhoods with special tree maintenance or planting needs. Set policies for planting, pruning or removal requests. Set funding priorities, and MS4 strategies for tree planting and regulate construction activities under the dripline of public trees.

Mr. Slusser mentioned that a local business man here in Altoona, has taken over the Gospel Hill area and has been cleaning up the junk and removing potentially dangerous trees. He said that he has not been up to look but that is something he needs to do.

5. **Adjournment**

Ted Newkirk motioned to adjourn meeting. Motion seconded by Jeff Arpino.

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Shade Tree Commission

LS/bf