

**Summary of the Minutes**  
**February 17, 2015 Meeting**  
**City of Binghamton Shade Tree Commission**  
**PHCD Conference Room, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, City Hall**

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**Commissioners Present:** Dick Andrus (Chair), Joshua DeMaree, Julian Shepherd, Carolyn Wilczinski, Lou Sebesta, Beverly Rainforth

**Commissioners Absent:** none

**Staff Liaison:** Melissa Enoch (Planning)

**Guests:** Artem Treyger (NYSEG), Paul Palmer (Parks Dept)

**Selection of scribe:** Beverly Rainforth

**Approval of minutes of previous meeting.** Minutes from January will be reviewed at the March meeting.

**Next meeting date and time:** March 16, 2015 7:00 PM

**1. Street Tree Plantings**

- a. **2014 Recap.** Tree Request Forms were sent out earlier and the cut-off was set earlier, so trees were planted earlier. All new trees received gaitors, which were filled twice a week for 3-4 weeks. A letter will be sent to fall tree recipients asking them to water their trees. All this should improve survival.
- b. **2015 Planning.** The Tree Request Form was reviewed. To avoid overplanting any tree species, STC will establish a multi-year rotation of trees to be offered in the Tree Request Form. STC will bring recommendations to the next meeting.

**2. Park Tree Plantings**

Several concerns were raised about plantings at Rec Park. It was necessary to remove a group of shrubs due to safety concerns. Another concern was tree wounds, presumed to be from gang mowers. Mowers are damaged when they hit tree roots, so gang mowers are no longer used to maintain parks.

- 3. Arbor Day 2015.** The Discovery Center's Storybook Garden is a popular venue and several trees have died, so this would be an ideal location for an Arbor Day event. Paul will contact the Discovery Center to see if they are interested in a joint project (around April 24).

**4. 2015 Tree Inventory and Emerald Ash Borer**

As part of the Tree Inventory, Joshua has been locating the Ash trees around the city. Based on findings to date, he expects to find a total of about 150. With invasion of the Emerald Ash Borer, most will need to be removed. Injections may be feasible or some of the older trees in key locations (e.g., 6-8 trees on Artists Row).

5. **City Site Plans:** None to review

6. **Green Stormwater Management and Landscaping Fund (GSMLF)**

Application to review: **GSLMF-013** approved as amended.

7. **NYSEG Pruning.**

Binghamton neighborhoods to be pruned this summer are the First Ward (Oak to Mygatt Streets) and the north side. NYSEG has identified 184 private trees and 143 public trees to be trimmed. NYSEG suggests removal of 34 private trees and 9 public trees.

8. **Other Updates.**

The Youth Success Initiative is working with BOCES to make two dozen tree guards.

The meeting concluded at 8:34 PM.