

Summary of the Minutes

February 25, 2013 Meeting

City of Binghamton Shade Tree Commission

PHCD Conference Room, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, City Hall

---

**Present:** Dick Andrus, Julian Shepherd, Artem Treyger, Lou Sebesta, Leigh McCullen, Patrick Day, Alexandra Spencer, Paul Palmer, Eric Tartter, Carolyn Wilczynski, Bev Rainforth, Fiske Hanson (Scribe)

**Minutes for Jan. 22, 2013:** Approved

**Next Meeting:** Mon. March 18, 2013, 7:00 p.m. City Hall Planning Dept Conference Room

1. NYSEG Tree Trimming to start on Binghamton's West Side - Artem Treyger, NYSEG Rep. presented the plan to trim trees in utility strips within overhead transmission lines.
  - a. Electrical Outage Study prevention measure directive from the utility company (Iberdrola/ NYSEG): to trim tree branches that are 15 ft. above and 10 ft. below and around wires. Disposal of manageable length (less than 4 ft) tree section still being considered as typically we do not require the contractor to do this. Full tree removal for trees larger than 18" dbh will be considered on a case-by-case basis, with removal of these size trees being rare. Trees with smaller dbh can be removed whenever necessary, but this is something we need to work out on a case-by-case basis as well.
  - b. Starting with the West Side, for next two months, expected trim work on streets west of Chenango River, Lagrange St to Riverside Dr., Glendale Dr. to Rte 17. Long range plan is to get in a 5 year cycle by 2015.
  - c. Advance notification will be given to landowners and residents (mailing and or doorknob hanger) and to STC by City Planning Dept. Option for "Consultation with the City". City has "approval rights" to tell, direct NYSEG how to do the pruning.
  - d. Discussion on the consequences of this massive removal project and its impact on the City's urban forest and the plan. There will be more discussion on strategies to retain and add to the inventory of large, valuable street and public trees and the City and STC to plan for future tree planting and remediation.
  
2. Review of City Site plans
  - a. Past reviews
    - i. 404 Court St. - Jack Sherman Toyota Dealer's off street parking lot. Current revised plan shows: 0 trees, 0 landscaping, 0 buffer  
Rationale: added expense to remove tree litter, potential bird droppings damaging to car finish, added greening would be inconsistent with existing Upper Court St. uniformly barren strip.

The original plan that included an acceptable landscaping plan was withdrawn. The revised plan is unacceptable therefore recommend to deny.

- b. No New Site plans
  - i. ++172 Broad St. - Leigh will send out site plan – Lawyer representing Empire Dev. will be coming to the Mar. 18 STC meeting.
3. Commission Seat Vacancies – none
  - a. Beverly Rainforth and Alexandra Spencer approved by City Counsel.
4. Citizen Pruner Program: Training for Mar. 2, 9:30 a.m. was cancelled. Will be rescheduled.
5. Literature for Developers & Residential Properties. Follow through: Brochures printed and made available at the BC Public Library. Give laminated copies to local nurseries and home centers: Hillside, Agway, Lowes and Home Depot. Have on city website.
6. Urban Forestry RFP- Contractor Davey was selected and will do 5% sample tree inventory, Parks Dept. training and data base set up.
7. Street Tree Planting
  - a. Tree Request System  
++ Discussion on rotation process - Next Meeting
  - b. Flyer distribution in First Ward - Alex volunteered to lead project.
8. Tree list expansion - Alex and Eric researched Nina Bassuk's website for possible trees to add. Zelkova, Katsura (non-weeping), Redwoods, Bald Cypress (Taxodium distichim), Osage Orange (hybridized thornless), Hardy Rubber Tree (Eucommia ulmoides), Oaks/ Chinkopin, Shingle, and Mountain Ash plus Golden Rain Tree (drought tolerant). Open for discussion.
9. Morgan Road - tree strip along Morgan Rd. approach to Discovery Center and Zoo entrance. Dick spoke to Pokey Crocker and Steve Contento about looking into grants and funding possibilities for replacement trees. Something for STC to think about. The dead and diseased Austrian Pines were taken down by Parks Dept. Would City plant new trees?
10. Paul Palmer announcements: City Director of Parks and Recreation is Bill Barber. City has 75 more Tree Gators, thanks to Amelia LoDolce.
11. Emerald Ash Borer - Of City's trees 5% are Ash. The invasive insect has not yet been detected here. More discussion?

**Minutes Submitted by Fiske Hanson**