

Summary of the Minutes

March 18, 2013 Meeting

City of Binghamton Shade Tree Commission

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

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**Present:** *Members:* Dick Andrus (Chair), Bev Rainforth, Julian Shepherd (scribe pro tem). *Staff:* Leigh McCullen, Melissa Enoch. *Guests:* Theresa Baleno, Sarah Campbell (representing Empire Development), Daniel Dain (Empire Development), Joshua Demarree, Artem Treyger (NYSEG).

**Minutes for Feb. 25<sup>th</sup>, 2013:** Approved (with minor revisions)

**Next Meeting:** Mon. April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2013, 7:00 p.m. City Hall Planning Dept Conference Room

1. **Empire Development Recycling Plant at 172 Broad Ave.** Previously, the Planning Dept. approved the site plan subject to STC approval. After considerable discussion of history and options, the participants approved the following for STC approval (via email) and return to Empire for comment:
  - a. Along Broad Ave, the STC dropped their request for large trees, but asked for:
    - i. Shrubs to “bumper height” in the 6’ parking lot buffer strip (inside the sidewalk), and wheel stops in the parking lot to protect the plantings
    - ii. Two small trees, one in the south utility strip beyond the sight angle, the second in the area near the gas meter, provided sufficient clearance from the gas line
  - b. Along Moeller St., the STC dropped the request for large trees in the utility strip outside the existing line of spruce trees but asked to:
    - i. Keep the existing line of spruce trees which are inside the fence,
    - ii. Add two large trees to the four large trees proposed by Empire for a total of six trees of 3 different species in the large green area at the corner of Moeller and Spellicy Sts., with these trees planted near the fence to create a screen
    - iii. Remove the barbed wire part of the chain link fence (unless required to protect the business).

Note that size of trees (large, small) refers to likely final growth height; the recommendation for planting size of trees is 2-2.5-inch caliper.

2. **Trees to replace the approx. 40 Austrian Pines that are dead or dying on Morgan Rd.** near the Zoo. As replacements would take most of the City’s annual tree budget, ways were considered to finance this. It was suggested that each of the City’s elementary schools be asked to sponsor (purchase) and then adopt the care of one or two trees. This could not happen this spring, but maybe next fall or for Arbor Day the following spring.
3. Treyger had a meeting with the Mayor and other city officials to explain the **extensive tree trimming that NYSEG** will be doing this year (see minutes of last STC meeting). He also said that street trees in an additional area on the South Side (mainly Park Ave. and Morgan Rd.) shall be trimmed this year.

4. Melissa Enoch will be taking over as the **staff liaison** with the STC.
5. As a result of questions about suitability of some of the species she suggested at our last meeting, Alex Spencer will be asked to review more widely the tree species she suggested last month as **additions to our list of preferred species**.
6. The next meeting will be April 15<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. in the City Hall Planning Dept.