

Summary of the Minutes
February 3, 2014 Meeting
City of Binghamton Shade Tree Commission
PHCD Conference Room, 4th Floor, City Hall

Commissioners Present: Dick Andrus (Chair), Joshua DeMarree, Carolyn Wilczinski, Julian Shepherd, Beverly Rainforth

Commissioners Absent: Lou Sebesta

Staff Liaison: Melissa Enoch

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

Selection of scribe: Beverly Rainforth

Approval of minutes of previous meeting. Approved

Next meeting date and time: March 17, 2014 7:00 PM

1. City Site Plans

- a. No new plans have been received
- b. Landscaping has been added to building code, which increases likelihood that landscaping will be completed before buildings are certified.

2. STC Appointments

- a. Dick was appointed to another term, and will continue to chair the commission.
- b. City Council advised STC to nominate a HS student member, as required. Finding and keeping an interested student has been an ongoing challenge. Carolyn will try to recruit from BHS's Ecology Club; this would be a mayoral appointment.
- c. Meetings with no quorum prevent timely action, so STC members who routinely miss meetings will be asked to resign. Melissa would post an announcement of opening(s) and ask interested residents to contact her.

3. BU Family Engagement Project.

Bev talked with Nina Schmidbaur, project coordinator, about the possibility of planting trees in the south yard at Horace Mann elementary school. STC supports the idea of planting trees that would shade the building, and would like to be involved in selection of trees. STC also would enjoy tree planting as Earth Day (Tuesday April 22) and Arbor Day (Friday April 25) event. Because school property is not city property, the city cannot provide the trees, dig the holes, or even locate the drainage. Carolyn will provide Bev with information about Lowe's Foundation funding for environmental projects. Bev will inform Nina Schmidbaur.

4. NYSEG Vegetation Management Update

Artem Treyger reported on two more circuits slated for pruning before leaves emerge:

downtown/east side and westside. NYSEG will send postcards and meet with Mayor David; a notice may go in the paper. Five trees probably will be removed completely. Dick will look at each of these trees and offer his opinion. Josh will check with Roberson about interest in a "whole tree project" in which wood from oaks and maples would be used for woodworking projects.

5. Citizen Pruner Program

Josh met with Melissa and hopes to have assignments available for pruners around Feb 15. The Binghamton Garden Club asked Melissa to have someone from the Citizen Pruner program go to their September meeting to explain the program.

6. City Tree Planting and Removal

Paul provided the list of 78 trees the Parks Dept planted this fall. At they also removed dead branches and several dead trees at Ross Park; they will cut the stumps down to the ground but not grind them. Dick will contact Steve Contento to see about plans for planting new trees. City trees probably will not be planted at Ross Park.

7. Grants

The city has received grants to award matching funds for homeowners and businesses to do environmental projects that improve neighborhoods.