

Summary of the Minutes

April 21, 2014 Meeting

City of Binghamton Shade Tree Commission

PHCD Conference Room, 4th Floor, City Hall

Commissioners Present: Dick Andrus (Chair), Joshua DeMarree, Bill Barber (Parks dept),

Commissioners Absent: Bev Rainforth (excused), Carolyn Wilczinski

Staff Liaison: Melissa Enoch (absent)

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

Selection of scribe: Dick Andrus

Approval of minutes of previous meeting. Approved

Next meeting date and time: May 19, 2014 7:00 PM

1. City Site Plans. None.

2. Arbor Day 2014. Discussion of Ross Park Zoo planting.

3. Citizen Pruner Program. Discussion on need to reengage pruners. Only 10 people participated this year and we need more. Dick completed 5 routes. Josh completed several. Jim Bryden completed some routes on the West Side.

4. Comprehensive Plan. Shade Tree Commission requested an update on the discussion that took place at the City Council Planning Committee meeting where the "Environment and Open Space" chapter of the Comprehensive Plan was discussed.

7. Fall Tree Planting. Shade Tree Commission tentatively agreed on four tree species for the Fall planting. There had been previous agreement that the City would offer two large and two small species each year, with the list changing each year for maybe five years. For next year Shade Tree Commission suggests the large trees be Hackberry and London Planetree and the small ones be Serviceberry and Hophornbeam. If Hophornbeam isn't available then European Hornbeam would be the alternative. This list should go out to the other members with requests for comments ASAP as we need to move now to be ready for Fall planting.

8. FEMA Buyout Properties. It was noted that the city will soon have responsibility for a big chunk of real estate when 18 houses come down near the river along Riverside Drive. Since no development can take place on these properties it was suggested that the City and the Shade Tree Commission plant a variety of interesting trees in this space when it becomes available. This would be good growing space for a variety of interesting trees and could form a small arboretum.