

Summary of the Minutes

May 19, 2014 Meeting

City of Binghamton Shade Tree Commission

PHCD Conference Room, 4th Floor, City Hall

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

Commissioners Absent: Lou Sebesta

Staff Liaison: Melissa Enoch

Guests: Artem Treyger (NYSEG), Bill Barber (Parks Dept), Paul Palmer (Parks Dept), Jennie Skeadas-Sherry (Planning Department)

Selection of scribe: Beverly Rainforth

Approval of minutes of previous meeting. Approved

Next meeting date and time: June 16, 2014 7:00 PM

1. **City Site Plans:** None
2. **Shade Tree Commission Responsibilities**

City Council seems to have questions and/or misunderstandings about the role and powers of the Shade Tree Commission (STC), which may influence them to seek ordinance revisions. Council is concerned with STC recommendations on private development projects. Currently, the STC serves as an advisory board to the Planning Commission (PC) on some private development projects. The PC recognizes that the STC has more technical expertise than they do when it comes to meeting specific components of the landscaping ordinance. Melissa will continue to update the STC on this topic.
3. **Student Membership on Shade Tree Commission**

STC nominated a Binghamton High School student but City Council did not consider the nomination because STC had not solicited nominations from Seton High School. Melissa has contacted Seton and is waiting to hear if any student(s) are interested. City Council will act on the nomination(s) at their June meeting.
4. **2014 Street Tree Request Form**

Minor corrections were made to the form. Melissa will look into a card to drop off with new trees (e.g., How to Care for Your Young Tree). She also will get Tree Tags to attach to trees in parks.
5. **Green Stormwater Management and Landscaping Fund**

These small grants are for homeowners. A minimum of 9 grants (totaling about \$50,000) are to be awarded by the end of 2014. The application will be posted this week.
6. **Citizen Pruner Program**

Pruning has been completed for this spring. Additional pruners will be needed for the fall.
7. **Other Updates**
 - a. **Invasive Pests**

Kevin Mather with Cornell Cooperative Extension asked if the City would help with a workshop on Emerald Ash Borer. Dick reported that Hemlock Woolly Adelgid has invaded Ross Park; he is looking into whether other communities have plans for large-scale treatment. Melissa will ask Kevin to contact Dick about possible workshop(s).

b. **Field trip to Ithaca**

Melissa will send a doodle poll to see who is available Saturdays in July to see the diversity and management of street trees in Ithaca.

The meeting started at 7:06 PM and ended at 8:22 PM.