

Frenchtown Shade Tree Commission
Regular Meeting
August 14, 2012

Chairman Robert Haver called the meeting to order at 5:46 pm and stated that all the requirements of the Open Public Meeting Law have been met.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Robert Haver
Travis Boyd
William Sullivan
John Wagner

Absent: Geoffrey Stanley

OLD BUSINESS

Town wide tree inventory & assessment

Robert Haver noted that he spoke with Geoffrey Stanley and they are getting together. William Sullivan noted that they are hoping to get together next Monday at 5:30 pm. He asked if there was a section of town that is more important than another. Robert Haver commented that he does not believe that they looked at Kingwood Avenue. We have a request about Trenton Avenue. William Sullivan stated that he did an assessment of the numbered streets and Milford Road. We can start on Kingwood Avenue and Trenton Avenue. John Wagner stated that Kingwood Avenue is under the jurisdiction of the County. The County did the planting there. Also, as to Harrison Street from Seventh Street on, it is the County's jurisdiction. Robert Haver recommended taking a look at the trees on Kingwood Avenue in case there is a hazardous tree that needs to be reported. Responding to Robert Haver in reference to roads such as Hilltop, Maple, etc., John Wagner stated that there were some trees planted back in the 1970s up there and we have done some maintenance on them but there were not a lot of trees planted by the town. Most of the trees were planted by homeowners or volunteers. We have to concentrate on the ones that are the most hazardous first. Robert Haver noted that in 2010, we did a lot of maintenance from Fourth to Sixth Streets and Harrison Street. Fifth Street needs a lot of work. Robert Haver noted that the ones in front of John Ericson's house need to be done and the ones we took down in front of Seip's house would be a good place to plant a few trees.

Tree replacement recommendations

John Wagner stated that he received a request for plantings on the north side of Upper Eighth Street where trees were taken out across from the empty lot. There are three houses in a row that would be good places to plant. Responding to Robert Haver, John Wagner stated that he planted 38 trees in one year. The fall is the best time. Robert Haver asked John Wagner for some recommendations, prices, etc. John Wagner stated that you would use 2 to 2 ½ caliper and they are around \$200.00 a piece. He believes there is approximately \$700.00 to \$800.00 in the budget for tree replacement. William Sullivan stated that they will come up with a list of locations including Sixth, Fifth, Fourth, Eighth and Tenth Streets. John Wagner stated that they planted numerous trees years ago through a grant. Robert Haver stated that he will look into available grants. Responding to John Wagner, William Sullivan recommended red maples, red oaks and lindens. John Wagner recommended looking at the packet of trees that are good for New Jersey. John Wagner will check on the available trees and prices. Robert Haver asked for a map of the locations where trees can go. We should get three trees done.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Robert Haver made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of the June 12, 2012 and July 10, 2012 meetings. John Wagner seconded the motion. The motion carried by favorable voice vote.

NEW BUSINESS

2012 Routine Maintenance Work

Robert Haver noted that the lower Fifth Street termite infested tree and the Ken Hoover tree on lower Fourth Street have been completed. William Sullivan stated that as to the Kerr tree, there is a branch that has rotted out and the tree is starting to get hallowed out. He would put it on the list. However, the other tree would benefit from it. We have limited funds but could take it out although the other tree is benefiting from it. There are no dead branches in the other tree. John Wagner will take a look at it and call Robert Haver so he can get back to Mr. Kerr.

Robert Haver noted that there was another tree complaint about a willow tree at 73 Trenton Avenue. The Shade Tree Commission members will look at it. John Wagner stated that a lot of the right of ways are not centered in the road and it is difficult to know if the tree is in the right of way.

As to the Sutphin tree removal, Robert Haver stated that he let Mrs. Sutphin know they could take the tree down. He recommended three companies to her.

John Wagner noted that there are several trees on Bridge Street that have low hanging branches that are at eye level. He believes that the Shade Tree Commission members can trim them if the members can get together on a Saturday morning. He has the pole saws. Any branches trimmed can be taken to the recycling center. Responding to Robert Haver, John Wagner noted that George Michael did some severe trimming of the trees on Bridge Street without permission from the Shade Tree Commission. William Sullivan, John Wagner and Geoffrey Stanley will look at the trees that were trimmed on Bridge Street by George Michael and make a recommendation for action. Robert Haver noted that when Nelson Tree Service came to town to trim for JCP&L, they discussed their plans with the Shade Tree Commission. We asked them not to hack the Bridge Street and Race Street trees. They took more care there.

CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting was adjourned by unanimous favorable voice vote at 6:10 p.m. on motion by Travis Boyd and seconded by John Wagner.

Robert E. Haver II, Chairman
Shade Tree Commission