

Lancaster City Shade Tree Commission
 MINUTES – October 17, 2017
 City Hall, Commission Room - 120 N. Duke St.

Present: Jim Bower, Kirsten Krimmel, Shirlie O’Leary, Carl Pike, Mimi Shapiro, Robert Shenk, Douglas Smith, Ashley Spotts

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM.

The minutes of the September 19th, 2017 meeting were approved

Old Business - none

New Business:

ITEM	ADDRESS	REQUEST	ACTION
18-17	709 N. Lime St.	Remove 2 Bradford pears. Southern tree damaged in storm.	Denied. Severely cut back southern tree. Recommend enlarging both tree wells.
19-17	512 Prospect St.	Remove 1 sugar maple.	Withdrawn by owner. Arborist will advise on crown thinning.
20-17	143 N. Shippen St.	Remove 1 red oak. Sidewalk raised, branches over house.	Denied. Arborist will examine roots when sidewalk is removed and will decide if repairing sidewalk would endanger tree and necessitate removal. Otherwise Arborist will designate larger radius for new sidewalk and will recommend pruning.
21-17	139 N. Shippen St.	Remove 1 red maple. Brick sidewalk raised.	Denied. Arborist will advise on removal of bricks that are raised, enlarging tree well.
22-17	825 E. Chestnut St. (Autozone)	Recommendation to Zoning Hearing Board for modification to plan. Remove 4 honey locusts from parking lot. Replace with 5 trees on north edge of property.	Recommended approval of removal, contingent on planting of at least 5 trees as shown on plan. Arborist will specify number of new trees, species, caliper, and location.
23-17	150 S. Queen St.	Land Development Plan. Remove 1 Kwanzan cherry. Replace with 1 tree.	Approved. Arborist will recommend a narrow crowned replacement tree. Structural soil to be installed beneath brick band. Arborist will specify pruning of existing zelkova before construction and required protection.

Discussion Items:

1. Arborist’s Report

- 119 trees will be planted during this fall planting season: 27 funded by the DID in recognition of their 25th anniversary, 58 through the Tree Tenders outreach campaign, 1 in memory of Lin Hanks, 27 through the regular Tree Planting Program, and 10 at the Lancaster Cemetery (Tree Tenders/Solanco High School).

- An estimated 10 street trees were lost in the Sept. 6 storm, and about 115 were damaged. About 8 trees were lost in Long's Park and 4 in Buchanan Park.

2. Sustainability Planner's Report

- Treevitalize application for planting in 2018 is still pending.
- The NFWF Five Star grant has been slow moving; however, we have several ideas for curriculum and three meetings have been set with the School District of Lancaster in the next 2 months.
- A meeting offer has been extended to Hillrise to discuss a major planting effort there with consideration to the GI plan for the property.
- The Lancaster Tree Tenders have mapped approximately 700 planting locations throughout the Southeast quadrant.
- The Stormwater Bureau is contracting with the Vermont Spatial Lab for a new canopy assessment using imagery from 2016. We should have this data by the year's end with a new estimate on canopy coverage across the City, as well as analysis of where we lost and gained by neighborhood block.
- There is a street tree planting scheduled for Nov. 9 in partnership with the Lancaster Cemetery and Solanco high school. About 40 students will help plant 10-14 trees and do a neighborhood cleanup.
- The workshop on trees and sidewalks for Commission members and city staff will be held on Nov. 9 from 9 AM to 4 PM in the city hall annex.
- A riparian buffer planting is scheduled for Nov. 11, 9 AM to noon, at a city property off Riverside Ave. in Lancaster Twp. Volunteers will plant about 200 trees, remove invasive species, and establish a meadow.
- There is concern that when trees are removed their stormwater value is not recognized and replacement is not required. If other stormwater features would be removed, replacement would be required.

3. Comments from Commission Members

- Members expressed concern about potential damage to trees during excavation by UGI for gas lines.
- Former Commissioner Lin Hanks will be memorialized at the City Council meeting Oct. 24, 7:30 PM. Members are encouraged to attend.
- Members asked staff to investigate the possibility of purchasing the new type of equipment that can assess the soundness of trunks, or contracting for such services.
- Members and staff should submit proposals for expenditures from the Hartman Fund for 2018.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 PM.

Next meeting, Tuesday, November 21st, 7:30 PM