

## Shepherdstown Tree Commission Minutes

Thursday, March 10, 2016 7:00 p.m.

Town Hall

1. Members Present: F. Welch, L. Robertson, and J. Dillon.  
Absent: None

Meeting called to order at 7:10 p.m. by L. Robertson.

2. Approval of Minutes and Agenda: **L. Robertson – if there are no objections, the agenda is approved. No minutes available from the last meeting.**

3. Visitors: David Gillen with Potomac Edison Utility/Forestry Division, Dale Hetrick with Potomac Edison Inventory and Line Clearance Division, Ryan Jones-arborist, Jen Thompson-landscaper, Melissa Gelwicks and Owen Stein with Boy Scout Troop 33. Bernie Somers.

B. Somers expressed her desire to be part of the Tree Commission. She gave a run down of her background. **J. Dillon – if there are no objections, move to recommend Bernie Somers as a Tree Commission member. No objections noted.**

David and Dale with Potomac Edison handed out some maps and literature outlining where they want to prune/remove dead trees. Most are along N. Princess St. and W. High Street to Mill Street, with some along Shepherd Grade Road. About a dozen trees have been slated for removal; many are ash trees along the above areas. The normal pruning is 15' from centerline; PE will relax that parameter for Shepherdstown to keep it looking nice along our streets and roads. There are a few private property specimen trees along High/Duke Streets that PE has already spoken to the homeowners about, and all are ok with what PE needs to do. N. Princess, 3 need to be removed. All pruning and removal is done by Pot. Edison at no cost to the Tree Commission.

The time frame is mid-May, Monday through Thursday, with no Fridays or weekends having work during those times.

J. Dillon – the pear in front of the Lost Dog is in bad shape and trimming badly. Unless the electric is shut off, Bartlett won't touch it. PE said the power would not be shut off, so they will assess the tree and get back to us. We need to a press release about the tree pruning and removal, as people in town love our trees and need to understand what is happening. The trees have been marked with red paint.

There are some invasive trees called Trees of Heaven that need to be cut back hard and treated with Tryclaper, an herbicide that does not leach out past the point of treatment. The residents have requested to be notified by PE 24 hours prior to tree work, as the roads will need to be blocked or coned off.

Thanked them for the information.

Owen had questions regarding the Tree City application for his Boy Scout Troop. F. Welch explained the process and gathering of information for the application that includes the time spent in meetings, record keeping, plantings, canopy and time spent on the actual application. He and J. Dillon explained the benefits of being a Tree City that include tourism, the environment and the economy. Owen asked about a non-profit his Troop could participate in and L. Robertson suggested Shepherdstown Street Fest.

#### 4. Unfinished Business:

- a. Redbud tree by Jefferson Security Bank – this has been removed and replaced.
- b. Tree relocation – Coldwell Banker – Jennifer to remove the tree and if able to salvage, will take to the plant for replanting. If damaged too much, will dispose of. Will add soil and mulch to tree hole once removed. This will be done next week.
- c. Dead tree by old toy store, German St. – Frank to cut the tree and try to remove. To be replaced with a Winter King Hawthorn.
- d. Winter/Spring Pruning – German St. – by Bartlett

**L. Robertson – if there are no objections, move to approve the Bartlett Winter Pruning for \$1900.73. No objections noted.**

**L. Robertson – if no objections, move to approve the Bartlett Spring Pruning for \$400.95. No objections noted.**

5. New Business:

a. Wells of trees on German Street – Jennifer to remove the wells around affected trees next Tuesday as the wells are growing into the trees.

b. Fall trimming – complete

c. W. New Street – Wisteria growing into Black Walnut tree – J. Dillon – there is actually a walnut and a mulberry being swallowed up by a wisteria. This evaluated by an arborist and it was determined that all should be removed. However, another arborist thought the walnut could be saved. Our visitor Ryan Jones offered to take a look at it and offer an opinion. The Linden tree can be saved.

d. Budget – approx. - \$10,000.

6. Maintenance/Misc. – James mentioned that the rose bushes by China Kitchen are showing signs of a disease and should be cut back to 30”. Some may have to be replaced entirely.

**L. Robertson – if there are no objections, the meeting is adjourned at 8:13pm. No objections noted. Minutes respectfully submitted by L. Robertson, Chair.**