

Shepherdstown Tree Commission Draft Minutes

Thursday, April 13, 2023

6:00 p.m.

Town Hall

- **Members Present:** Lori Robertson – Chair, Frank Welch, Jenny Haynes, and James Dillon.

- **Absent:** None

* **Visitors: Thomas Butcher - Regional External Affairs Consultant and Dale Hetrick -Advanced Forestry Specialist for Martinsburg Service Territory**

1. **Call to Order:** L. Robertson called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

2. **Approval of April 13, 2023 minutes.**

J. Haynes – move to approve November 17, 2022 Tree Commission minutes. Second by J. Dillon. No objections noted.

3. **Public Comment:** None

4. **Visitor's comments:**

Thomas and Dale from Potomac Edison spoke to the commission.

There are many trees that are located under the wires that are ok, however some need to be replaced. They can provide a tree list and have a program to help with this sort of project. There are a few on High St., some on SU property, and a couple on German St. German St. includes the Bradford Pear in front of the Lost Dog and Honey Locusts at the corner of German and Princes & German and Church. Dale will email James with suggestions.

Potomac Edition does not grind stumps, but will cut the trees down. Some favorites are Kousa Dogwoods, Kwanzan Cherry, Serviceberry (Allegheny), and maybe an Elm on the corner of German and Princess. Lost Dog tree - definitely remove and possibly replace with a smaller tree. There is also a space in front of Grapes & Grains. Dale mentioned that there is a new type of grinder - screw - type - that might make it easier. We can ask Bartlett and Viking.

5. Unfinished Business:

- a. Verbiage for Comprehensive Plan –input from Commission. Pending.
- b. Tree wells – Public Works – Flexipave update for Devonshire. DONE
- c. Monarch Way Station –looking good. Needs to be cleaned up. Also, need the milkweed plants from Bartlett.
- d. HOLD DUE TO COVID - Suggestion to have Bartlett give us a quote to clear the bowl in Rumsey Park with a brush-cutter. Then plant a large White oak (red foliage in the fall) or a Chinkopin Oak and keep the bowl clear. Put a large circle around the tree for water to pool to keep it moist.
- e. Sage Place – James suggested planting perennial evergreen plugs in 1-2 years – Eastern Star Sedge. There are 9 trees to maintain – have Bartlett do all 9 trees this spring - James to email.
- f. SU hill –planting in the fall of 2022 – Black Chokeberry. Start with the first set of trees. James will go ahead and order 5. DONE
- g. Thirty Seasons - did a great job cleaning up the beds and adding some mulch. Will redo them before Street Fest.

h. Tree Inventory – any trees that come down we need to let Bartlett know if they don't do the work.

i. Red Maple in front of Town Hall – put a plaque “In Honor of Pete Spaulding” Lori to reach out on FB to chat with those who had worked with Pete. We need to go ahead and order it.

j. There is a Ginkgo that needs to be replaced with a different gender as it stinks. James – it is leaning into the street. James to order a Red Rage Black Gum. - The Ginkgo is coming back and we will leave it in place. Deb Tucker needs a tree on High St. and James will check to see if it will be a good fit.

k. Parks & Rec – request to remove dead limbs at Bane Harris Park –
UPDATE - DONE

l. The Commission has expressed a concern for the tree located at the corner of New and King by the Baach's home. Need to reach out to the Baach's to discuss. Tree #273 on page 18 of the tree inventory. Lori and Frank spoke with the Baach's and they agreed the tree should come down. Bartlett is to come in July 26 & 27 to cut and grind the stump. A new tree will be planted there with their input. UPDATE.- DONE

m. Judy Kernek - trim tree off boxwoods - DONE

n. Dead trees on Washington St and corner of Church and Washington –
Bartlett to remove - UPDATE - DONE

o. Harvey Heyser – 203 E, High St. – a new tree we planted – he would like it removed – no action. (See below)

p. Ralph Doty – 101 N. Princess St – Bartlett to trim – UPDATE - DONE

q. Lost Dog Tree - trees on roof and in wires - UPDATE

Lori spoke with Garth who is 100% with the tree coming down and look terrible now. It was always the wrong tree to plant there. See conversation above with Visitors.

r. Arbor Day Tree - Serviceberry - UPDATE - place in front of Grapes & Grains

- s. Deb Tucker - 300 W. High St. - Tupelo Tower - UPDATE

Was planted on German St at her old address. James will check with Deb for another tree on High St.

7. **New Business:**

- a. Tree/bush hanging over sidewalk – Carlos and Liz – New St. - DONE

Lori reached out to Liz and she had it cut back.

- b. Impeded view pulling out by Jim Getz home onto Duke from Alley – flowers and tree. DONE

Lori reached out to Jim and will not plant high plants anymore.

- c. Webs on Cherry Tree next to Alice's home – new owners inquiring. DONE

Lori let them know the webs will not harm the tree based on Jame's recommendation.

- d. Tree City - 17 years May Day celebration - April 19.

Frank has the tree.

- e. Dead tree at the corner of Mill & German Streets -

Frank - its coming down for \$2800

- f. Dead Tree by the Seagal home - tree tag #125 - corner of German and Duke (German St side) across from the Thomas Shepherd Inn.

Derek with Bartlett recommended it to come down. Quote is forthcoming.

- g. Harvey Heyser tree removal request - again

The commission took another look at the location - there is a curb there. The commission does not recommend the tree removal.

h. Cutting of lilacs and forsythias at Rumsey Park.

Keep the area cleared and leave the remaining lilacs and forsythias as is.

8. **Maintenance/Misc.** - Spring 2023 -

Frank - Bartlett fertilizes automatically

*. Next meeting May 11 - see if Jack baronet can come to the meeting.

9. Adjournment:

L. Robertson – if there are no objections, the meeting is adjourned at 7:10 p.m. Second by J. Dillon. None noted.