

Shepherdstown Tree Commission Draft Minutes

Thursday, June 22, 2023

6:00 p.m.

Town Hall

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

 - **Absent:** None

 - * **Visitors:** Jack Baronner - Associate Forester with First Energy
1. **Call to Order:** L. Robertson called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

 2. **Approval of May 11, 2023 minutes.**

J. Haynes – move to approve May 11, 2023 Tree Commission minutes.
Second by F. Welch. No objections noted.

 3. **Public Comment:** None

 4. **Visitor's comments:**

Jack - works with Dale Hetrick - First Energy. There are several trees on the written proposal in front of the commission. Corner of Duke & High streets, one across from the McMillians, one across from Sonya Evanesko, one on W. High across from the ball field where Harry Bender used to live, the Lost Dog Bradford Pear, and at the corner of S. Princess and German streets in front of the Green

Pineapple. There is a tree on the proposal that is located on SU property and Jack knows they will have to contact them directly. First Energy is offering us 7 tree vouchers worth \$100 each as well as a credit of \$1500 towards the purchase of additional trees. The corporation is to provide a written response regarding wood removal for town property so the vendor can haul it away. The trees need to be planted in the 2023 calendar year. We need to include a 3-year maintenance plan for the new trees.

We discussed time frame - Monday's are the best day for tree removal on German St. especially for the Lost Dog tree. We would like to have a week's notice to allow the businesses to prepare. We spoke about an Okame Cherry to replace the Green Pineapple tree. The commission will look at the accepted tree list for the other replacement trees. The tree well is so small in front of the Lost Dog that replanting is an issue with removing the stump which First Energy does not do. The tree can be cut as close to the ground as possible for now and we can think about stem removal in the future.

First Energy will cut and chip the trees. The wood chips can be taken to the sewer plant per Frank as we use them regularly.

L. Haynes - move to accept the First Energy Tree Removal Proposal with the exception of the Shepherd University tree. Second by J. Dillon. No objections noted.

**** The plan is get the proposal to the Mayor for him to sign and scan to Dale Hetrick, along with the written response regarding wood removal.*****

5. Unfinished Business:

- a. Verbiage for Comprehensive Plan –input from Commission. Pending.
- b. Monarch Way Station –plants need to be cut back and weeded. Lori will go over and weed and prune now that we have had some rain. She had signs made designating these areas to not be mowed and what they are. We need poles/stakes to attach the signs too. Frank thinks he has something at the plant, if not James has some rebar.
- c. Keep as Pending - 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.

d. 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 to update. The Star Sedge update is that Lori was emailed by a resident of Sage Place requesting the wells be done. Lori noted that some of the wells had been planted with perennials. James clarify that those flowers were seeds that blew into the wells. He will reach out to the resident and get this worked out.

e. Thirty Seasons - cut the roses back hard and thankfully we got a bunch of rain right afterward. The German St. beds were weeded and look good. They still need to finish on King St and at the Train Station. The weather has made it tough.

f. Tree Inventory – no updates at this time.

g. 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.

h. Lost Dog tree - see the above note under Visitor’s.

i. Deb Tucker - 300 W. High St. - Lori mailed Deb with these choices per James for under the wires - Serviceberry, Adirondack Crabapple, or an Okame Cherry. However, she prefers a Kousa Dogwood and James confirmed that will work fine. Lori to email her again to confirm the planting in the fall.

j. Harvey Heyser – 203 E, High St. – a new tree we planted – he would like it removed – after a lengthy discussion, we will relocate the tree. Harvey stated he has no plans to drive up and over the curb once the tree is removed. He is fine with us doing it in the fall. Keep on agenda for fall relocation and replanting of a Sugar Maple to the right of his house.

k. Dead tree at the corner of Mill and German - Frank- Bartlett to do but will need flaggers.

l. Dead tree by Seagal home - tree tag is 135. Corner of German and Duke - German St side. Need to reconfirm quote with Bartlett - **also Neil Super would to coordinate with Bartlett to get some of the wood.**

m. Rain barrel broken drain pipe at the Train Station - Update - Frank - it's fixable and Public Works will do it.

n. Bike Shop tree - DONE

7. New Business:

a. Sue Lemnitzer - tags 67, 68, 69 & 70 - Back Alley behind her house - English Ivy and poison ivy drowning on them. - James looked at the photos Lori took and we can cut them ourselves.

b. Tree to the left of the Shepherdstown Museum closer to the alley - cable? Lori spoke to Derek with Bartlett and he recommends they trim it until it's feasible to remove the problem limb. Lori to let him know.

c. Japanese Silk Lilacs on New St - in front of Jenny Allen's home - 206 W. New. - add to Bartlett's list.

d. W. High St across from Karen Moivan's home - an area between the sidewalk and street large stones were placed there - can we plant a ground cover to cover them. James - St. John's Wort will work great there. James will assess it.

e. Mayor Auxer's home. 108 E. New St. - tree needs to be trimmed - add to Bartlett's list

f. Frank needs clarification on a quote referencing tags 174 & 175 - location. Quote is for &1185.00.

g. Heidi Glenn - would like an Ann Magnolia - planted on King St. side.

8. Maintenance/Misc. - Fall 2023 -

* Next meeting July 13 - 6pm

9. Adjournment:

**J. Haynes – if there are no objections, the meeting is adjourned at 7:08 p.m.
Second by J. Dillon. None noted.**