City of Napoleon, Ohio

TREE COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Monday, July 20, 2020 at 6:00 pm

PRESENT

Committee Members	Larr Etzler-Chair, Dave Volkman, Gary Haase
City Council Representative	Molly Knepley
Comm Members via WebEx	Ed Clausing
City Staff	Chad Lulfs, P.E., P.S.-, Aron Deblin via WebEx
Clerk of Council	Roxanne Dietrich
Others	

ABSENT

Commission Member	Kyle Moore

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Etzler called the Tree Commission meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Hearing no objections or corrections, the minutes from the March 16, 2020 Tree Commission meeting stand approved as presented.

TREE CALL REPORTS

Lulfs said there were five new call tree calls. 1442 Oakdale, 1 Yeager Court, 1448 Oakwood Drive, 644 Welsted and 527 Sheffield. The tree on Sheffield is dropping limbs and appears to have a lot of ants. We are going to take a look at that tree this week and see if it is an issue that needs to be addressed this fall. Etzler noted we have had a lot of calls on Sheffield, is that the same place? Deblin said this is a new call. Volkman asked if there was any storm damage? Lulfs said there was some storm damage and there is a potential insurance claim on Webster. We do plan on removing that tree this fall. Deblin confirmed we are planning on removing that tree unless Jamie Howe has other advice. Lulfs said we asked Howe to take a look at that tree but have not heard back from him.

FALL PLANTINGS

Lulfs reported right now we only have three fall plantings on the list, there are two on Rohrs Street and one on Welsted. We are running short on the budget for tree trimming and our recommendation would be to forego the fall tree plantings until the spring. Etzler asked how many trees were planted in the spring this year? Deblin informed the commission fourteen trees were planted this spring.

Motion: Volkman Second: Knepley
to forego the fall tree plantings for 2020

Roll call vote on the above motion:
Yea-Clausing, Volkman, Haase, Etzler, Knepley
Nay-
Yea-5 Nay-0. Motion Passed.

FALL REMOVALS

Lulfs said there are ten trees and eleven stumps on the list. We asked the Electric Department if they have any stumps to be removed and have not heard back from them. There are two (2) very large trees,

one is on Pontious close to First Street, we are estimating that tree alone to cost $1,800 for removal. The tree on Webster is similar in size, there is a large silver maple on West Clinton and another one on Park Street. There are other trees but, those are the largest ones on the list. The trees on Pontious and Webster have both been dropping large limbs. The tree on Webster has caused some damage. The removals and topsoil are scheduled to go out for bid on July 27, 2020. We asking for approval of the list as we have it and if something comes in from the Electric Department, we may add that to the list and request the Electric Department to cover that cost. Etzler asked what do you estimate the cost to be for removal of the ten trees and eleven stumps? Lulfs said $8,450.00. Clausing asked about the tree on Sheffield at the corner of Strong Street. Deblin said when Tawa trimmed the limb off, they found the limb was hollow. There are not any other signs of decay so, we were going to hold off and monitor that tree for now. There was another one at the corner of Park that Tawa recommended be removed and that one is coming out but, not the one at Strong and Sheffield.

Motion: Haase Second: Etzler
to approve the Fall Tree and Stump Removal List

Roll call vote on the above motion:
Yea-Clausing, Volkman, Haase, Etzler, Knepley
Nay-
Yea-5 Nay-0. Motion Passed.

TOPSOIL

Lulfs reported there are 22 locations with 28 holes on the topsoil list. The estimated cost is $2,500. Did we move to do topsoil once a year now? Deblin said we were going to do topsoil once a year, but this year we tried to do it twice to get caught up. The $2,500 is a not-to-exceed price. We do not anticipate having to spend the whole $2,500 but, it will be close. The cost in the spring was $80 for each hole.

Motion: Knepley Second: Haase
to approve the 2020 Fall Topsoil list.

Roll call vote on the above motion:
Yea-Clausing, Volkman, Haase, Etzler, Knepley
Nay-
Yea-5 Nay-0. Motion Passed.

FALL TRIMMING

Lulfs stated the tree removals and topsoil go out for bid on July 27, 2020. When those bids come in, we will not have put out our trimming list yet. We planned to budget $13,000 for trimming, we do not have $13,000 available at this time. However, if the other projects come in low, we would like to use the remaining amount in the fund for trimming. Right now we are short $1,800 of our $13,000 budget. The trimming is bid on an hourly rate basis and the contractor trims until they are out of time. It is based on the budget number so having it as our last item to bid we can up the budget to what we have. The area we are planning to trim is Glenwood on the left, the railroad tracks on the North except we are not doing Woodlawn. Then south of Woodlawn over to Scott Street. Deblin commented we can review and approve the Fall Tree Trimming list at the next meeting.
Etzler asked about the newer trees on Woodlawn. Those trees should be big enough that if there are any branches that may be difficult to mow under or are causing problems to the property owners in that area, that if the commissioners want to go out, we can go out and prune them. Lulfs noted if any of you

do spend time out there, please let us know so we can log your time of volunteer hours for the Tree City USA application.

ARBOR DAY

Lulfs said Arbor Day was delayed in the Spring. We had originally hoped to do something this Fall. This year the requirement has been waived to have Arbor Day as a Tree City USA qualification. You are not required to have a ceremony or a planting. If we do not do a fall planting, we can still have Arbor Day but it is not necessary to have Arbor Day for Tree City USA. I don't know if ODNR will encourage it as they are still not holding any in-person events with the pandemic. We do not have to make a decision this evening, that may be something to reconsider next month or cancel. Etzler asked if the tree in the spring was planted? Deblin replied the tree was planted, we were going to do a different location with a different tree for Arbor Day. The spring plantings were done the first couple of weeks of the pandemic. Etzler said Stephanie Miller from ODNR had ideas for possible alternatives to group gatherings for Arbor Day Celebration we can bring up next meeting.

OTHER MATTERS

Lulfs said the Tree Academy has not been rescheduled. If there are any members that want to go to the next class, we can get you on the list.
Etzler welcomed Molly Knepley as City Council's representative on the Tree Commission.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Knepley Second: Volkman
to adjourn the Tree Commission meeting at 6:27 pm.

Roll call vote on the above motion:
Yea-Clausing, Volkman, Haase, Etzler, Knepley
Nay-
Yea-5 Nay-0. Motion Passed.

Approved

August 17, 2020 Larr Etzler

Larr Etzler, Chairman