

**MAYOR'S BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE
TREES AND PUBLIC GREENERY
7:30 AM – Wednesday, June 9, 2010
City Hall, City Manager's Conference Room**

Members Present: Peter Loughlin, Chairman A.J. Dupere, Community Forester
Richard Adams, Vice-Chair June Rogers, Member
Steve Parkinson, Public Works Director Carla Marvin, Member
Everett Kern, General Forman

Also present was Steve Pesci.

The Chair called the meeting to order at approximately 7:30 a.m.

1. Acceptance of the Minutes – Minutes of the May 12, 2010 meeting were accepted as presented.

2. Tree Removal Requests:

- Meetinghouse on Manning Street side – Everett Kern reported this was requested by the Friends of the South End as part of their landscaping improvements after the painting is completed.
Richard Adams felt the tree needed severe pruning.
MOTION made by Richard Adams to prune the tree and not take it down.
Seconded by Carla Marvin. Motion passed.

3. Update on Lower State Street improvements – Placed at the end of the Meeting. Steve Parkinson stated things are moving slowly.

AJ reported there have been a couple of meetings regarding the Grant that he applied for with Corporate Extension and working on the filtering pits and monitoring that will be done to monitor the storm water out of there which will lead to some educational workshops being done on site and working with City Staff to put this together and will let the Committee members know when this is being done. The intention is to invite in other Public Works crews to see that the filter pits can be put in, how there being put in and the logistics. At some point there will be trees in pits there and encourage city street water to run into where the trees are going with the tree absorbing some of that water as well as some of the pollutants in the water as well and will measure the water coming back out of those pits. The level of nitrates, chlorides, etc. will be tested by UNH Storm Water Center.

4. Update on Sycamore Tree at 23 Sheffield Road – AJ reported he met with Mrs. Fernald before going up in the bucket to view the tree. He found the bottom stem is still solid with no major cracks, no significant rot. The tree is sound, healthy, there are a few limbs that over extend Sheffield and Hampshire Rd and there are small limbs with some rot that can be removed. Some limbs have been removed arbitrarily cutting them wherever they can reach leaving stubs and stems sticking out in random locations. Recommended that the tree be repruned.

MOTION made by Richard Adams that a letter be sent stating it is a healthy tree and AJ recommended pruning the tree and not to remove it. Seconded by Everett Kern. Motion passed.

5. **City Attorney's Opinion** – The chair sent this as informational. Steve Parkinson stated this was to clarify the roles and relationship between this Committee and the Peirce Island Committee of the rules, regulations and responsibilities.
6. **Arbor Day Foundation Designation Letter** – The Chair stated Nancy Carmer does a great deal of work together with Public Works and have been Tree City for eleven (11) years. Congratulations from the Chair in accomplishing this.
7. **Letter Re: Atlantic Heights Street Improvements** – The Chair referred to the letter received from David Moore.
8. **Old Business:** Richard Adams asked about the resistograph. AJ reported when it comes back from New York will have use of it.
9. **New Business:**

The Chair referred to a letter from Steve Pesci. Mr. Pesci stated he owns a home at 200 Thornton St. corner of Thornton and Stark who is looking to install an electric solar panel system on his roof. There are two Norway Maple trees (tree A and tree B) in the City right-of-way in front of his home as shown on aerial photos presented to the Committee. Mr. Pesci is requesting reducing the canopy or would like to see tree A removed and replaced with something smaller as it is impacting the solar beam on the house by 10-15% making a difference whether it is or is not feasible. There is a stop sign on the corner that is being obscured. Stark St. is the walking route to New Franklin School. Mr. Pesci is willing to work with the City to possibly replace the tree with an appropriate species for this location. Mr. Pesci would like to replace Tree A with a different species and replace or do a top pruning of Tree B. The solar system would be impacted if these trees were left. The solar system will generate about 2.6 kilowatts and presently his household needs is 2.4, will be a net positive.

The Chair stated this is the first request for a tree removal or pruning in conjunction with solar energy and have been very reluctant to remove any live trees.

The Chair asked AJ to look at this tree prior to the next meeting.

June Rogers asked AJ when looking at the tree to consider the stop sign and visibility of the corner.

The tree will be posted and gather information at the public hearing on July 14th.

Richard Adams suggested taking a broader context, it is a tough issue and undoubtedly will be facing this in the future.

Steve Parkinson referred to a letter received from PSHN together with information and posters regarding planting of tree, right species of trees to be planted near power lines. More informational for people to understand certain trees to plant under wires, just raising awareness.

Everett Kern reported that quotes were received for plantings for this year and again, Stratham Circle came in with the lower quote. The trees will be planted by the end of June.

10. Next Meeting - Wednesday, July 14, 2010

Respectfully submitted,
Elaine Boucas