

**WINCHESTER TREE COMMISSION
MINUTES
July 23, 2009**

The regular July monthly meeting of the Winchester Tree Commission was held on Thursday, July 23, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Administration Building at City Yards.

Ms. Major, Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order.

Ms. Major stated that under section two on page three of the June minutes the name should read Ms. Nancy Stam instead of Ms. Nancy Mitchell.

Mr. Farris made a motion to accept the amended June minutes; seconded by Mr. Roulston, motion was approved.

Members present: Ms. Allison Major, Mr. T'ai Roulston, Mr. Patrick Farris, Ms. Chris Scully and Ms. Mary Stickley.

Members absent: Ms. Kate Christen

Staff present: Clint Cantrell, Tim Stern and Jason Didawick

Guests present: Ms. Charlotte Eller

Guests Comments: Ms. Eller stated that she is present to speak about the tree located at 1708 Henry Ave. Ms. Eller stated that she is not present to speak against Mr. Molden's request; she is present to speak in favor of the tree. Ms. Eller stated that if the tree was dying and visibly unsalvageable she would agree. Ms. Eller stated that she sits in the window and drinks her coffee every morning and looks at the tree. Ms. Eller stated that she hopes the Tree Commission can find some way to save the tree. Ms. Eller stated that she knows Mr. Molden is concerned about the sidewalks because they are in bad shape and he is concerned about the sewer pipes. Ms. Eller stated that the tree is a beautiful, healthy tree and it provides shade. Ms. Eller asked if it would be possible to fix the sidewalk and save the tree at the same time. Ms. Eller asked to be notified if there are any future discussions concerning the trees in front of the property. Ms. Scully asked Ms. Eller if she was aware that Mr. Molden is asking for the removal of three trees. Ms. Eller stated that she is aware of it and she would hate to see any of the trees removed. Ms. Eller stated that if Tim Stern thinks the trees should be removed then she would not dispute his decision or argue with him because of his knowledge of trees. Ms. Eller stated that Mr. Molden is right that the sidewalk needs to be fixed. Ms. Major stated that the Tree Commission will talk with Tim Stern and Tom Hoy regarding the sidewalk and they will make a decision based on the health of the tree and Tim's recommendation. Ms. Major asked if there have been a lot of complaints from residents about the sidewalk. Ms. Eller stated that she did not know of any. Ms. Major stated that the Tree Commission members would discuss the trees very seriously and they will do their very

best to save the trees. Mr. Roulston informed Ms. Eller that at the last Tree Commission meeting the members decided to develop a sign that would be placed on trees that have been requested for trimming or removal so that people would be able to see that there has been a request. Ms. Eller stated that she would appreciate it if the Tree Commission did that. Ms. Eller stated that she would like to encourage the Tree Commission to save all three of the trees because she is not in favor of cutting down any of them. Ms. Scully stated that Tim Stern can inform Ms. Eller of the Tree Commission's decision concerning the tree. Ms. Eller stated that if she can be of any help please call and she will be happy to meet members at the location. Ms. Eller stated that she deeply appreciates the Tree Commission hearing her out. Tim Stern stated that when the original request was made he went out to the location with the Streets Supervisor and he is going to address the sidewalk problem after he finds out what the Tree Commission decides to do with the trees. Tim stated that the Streets Supervisor needs to know what is going to be done with the trees before he can decide what to do with the sidewalk.

Old Business:

1) **Tree Canopy Goals and Plan: Presentation to City Council**

Mr. Farris stated that on Tuesday, August 4, 2009 there is a City Council work session of the committee that oversees the Tree Commission. Mr. Farris stated that the committee passes on recommendations to the City Council and they would not be voting on anything. Mr. Farris stated that the committee will be listening to the public as well as other members of the committee. Mr. Farris stated that he would attend the meeting to ask the committee to endorse the Urban Tree Canopy Goal. Mr. Farris stated that there are two major items that will be of concern to them. First, will the Tree Commission be asking for a substantial increase in their budget and second, what happens if the goals aren't met at the end of the ten year plan. Mr. Farris stated that the Tree Commission has answers to both questions. Mr. Farris stated that the Tree Commission will continue to ask the City to fund the work of the City Arborist but they won't be asking for a significant raise to fund the Urban Tree Canopy Goal Report. Mr. Farris stated that goals must be set and without them there is no way of measuring progress.

New Business:

1) **Discussion of Tree Removal/Trimming requests:**

1708 and 1712 Henry Avenue

Ms. Stickley made a motion to deny removal of the three trees located at 1708 and 1712 Henry Avenue and to repair the sidewalk; seconded by Ms. Scully, motion was approved.

206 S. Loudoun Street (on corner)

Mr. Roulston made a motion to deny removal of the healthy tree located at 206 S. Loudoun Street, to remove the tree on the corner and put it on the planting list if the sight line is appropriate; seconded by Ms. Major, motion was approved.

Behind 216 Cedarmeade Avenue (in park area/open lot)

Ms. Stickley made a motion to deny the removal of the two trees located behind 216 Cedarmeade Avenue (in park area/open lot); seconded by Mr. Roulston, motion was approved.

1118 Valley Avenue

Ms. Scully made a motion to remove the tree located at 1118 Valley Avenue; seconded by Ms. Major, motion was approved.

Beside front main steps to the Timbrook Public Safety Center

Mr. Roulston made a motion to deny removal of the tree located beside the front main steps of the Timbrook Public Safety Center; seconded by Ms. Stickley, motion was approved.

Across from 226 E. Piccadilly Street

Ms. Scully made a motion to remove the tree located across from 226 E. Piccadilly Street; seconded by Mr. Roulston, motion was approved.

Across from 4 S. Washington Street

Mr. Farris made a motion to remove the tree located across from 4 S. Washington Street; seconded by Ms. Scully, motion was approved.

S. Braddock Street beside Rouss Fire Hall

An emergency tree trimming was completed on the Sycamore located on S. Braddock Street beside Rouss Fire Hall because vehicles were running into low branches as they passed by the construction site.

2) **Construction of Tree Commission meeting and business protocol:**

Mr. Farris stated that he will be working with Tim Stern and Tom Hoy and looking at all of the protocol the Tree Commission has so far so that a work session can be scheduled. Mr. Farris stated that this will give members the opportunity make comments and suggestions. Mr. Farris stated that the Natural Resources Advisory Board is also working on their protocol which will come before the City Council. Mr. Farris stated that it basically states how their meetings are conducted and what they are responsible for, which is what he would like to have for the Tree Commission.

Comments from Commission Members:

- 1) Ms. Stickley asked if there is a policy that allows staff to cut girdling roots if it is needed. Mr. Farris stated that there is not a policy but if a tree loses a limb during a storm or if a tree has girdling roots then Tim can take care of the as part of his daily job. Ms. Stickley also asked Tim Stern how long he leaves stakes at trees after they are planted. Tim stated that it depends how much foot traffic there is around the tree. Tim stated that he normally leaves the stakes for a year but if it is a high traffic area or if the tree hasn't grown much, he may leave them longer.
- 2) Mr. Farris stated that he will send each member of the Tree Commission a draft of the letter to the Editor that he typed up regarding Oscar the tree. Mr. Farris stated that he hopes a good article comes out of it. Mr. Farris stated that he is hoping to time the article so that it coincides with the upcoming planting season so that he can encourage citizens to adopt a tree from the current list of needed tree plantings. Mr. Farris stated that he wants each member to look at the letter before it is sent to the Winchester Star.

Comments from City Staff:

- 1) Tim Stern submitted the staff report for the month of June.
- 2) Tim Stern gave each member a map of tree wells for the completed section of the Infrastructure Project so that members could look at each location and come up with a plant list of the species they want planted. Mr. Farris stated that the only suggestion Perry Eisenach had was that the members look at the entire block together when choosing the species. Mr. Farris asked each member to go out independently to take a look at the locations and come up with planting suggestions for the next meeting.

Adjourn:

With no further business to discuss, Ms. Farris adjourned the meeting.

**CITY OF WINCHESTER
TREE COMMISSION
STAFF REPORT FOR JUNE 2009
SUBMITTED JULY 23, 2009**

This report is a summary of contractor expenses and an activity listing of trimmings, plantings, removals and stump grindings for the month of June 2009.

**EXPENSES REPORT
(Billings for June 2009)**

CONTRACTOR TRIMMINGS:	CONTRACTOR PLANTINGS:	CONTRACTOR REMOVALS:	TOTAL:
\$ 500.00	\$300.00	\$ 0	\$ 800.00

ACTIVITY REPORT

TRIMMING:	PLANTINGS:	REMOVALS:	STUMP GRINDING:
304 S. Loudoun St. Corner Braddock/Clifford St. x2		418 Millwood Ave. Feather Bed Lane (tree fell into street from wooded area just west of the Apple Blossom Mall entrance)	
Corner Braddock/Cork St. x3			
Corner National/Pleasant Valley Rd.			
426 W. Clifford St. x2			
Commercial St. beside Car Quest			
Corner Braddock/Leicester St.			
Elm St. alley			
Corner Valley/Hillman Dr.			
1735 Brandon Dr.			
320 Parkway St.			
Corner Pleasant Valley/Parkview St.			
420 S. Kent St			
301 E. Cork St.			
Amherst/Fox Dr. in median			
Timbrook Safety Center x25			
1122 Valley Ave. (Hart St. Side)			
45 Trees	0 trees	2 trees	0 stumps