

Tree City Committee Minutes September 14, 2020

Terry Marshall called the meeting to order in the Wisconsin Dells Municipal Building at 4:30 PM. Other members present: Dave Holzem, Shirley Tollaksen, Becky Gussel, and guests Chris Tollaksen, Fred Westerfeldt, and Adam Makowski.

Minutes of the March 9, 2020 meeting were approved on a motion by Shirley, seconded by Becky.

Fred reported that the 90 ash trees that he treated this summer are healthy. The treatment we have been doing three times in the last 8 years is keeping the emerald ash borer beetles away from these trees. We will need to decide whether or not to keep treating these trees. Fred reported that the infestation is probably at its peak now.

Debbie and Shirley will purchase 20 trees at Landscape Techniques for fall planting. Three of them will be planted in front of the bank on Superior Street.

The Urban Forestry Grant which we received last year was deferred until 2021 when a forestry student will be hired to inventory the City's trees and create a Tree Management Plan with an emphasis on our park trees. Dave and Chris will work with MSA to convert our inventory from CAD to GIS.

We will renew our Tree City status in December, including a Council resolution for Arbor Day to be celebrated on April 30, 2021.

Discussion of moving tree management from Public Works to Parks and Recreation has been initiated with Thad, Chris, and the mayor. Because of his strong interest in the City's trees, we are considering appointing Tim Hall as City Forester.

Adam reported that the BID tree lights would be LED and would be removed after the holiday season to prevent damage to the trees. BID is still working on a plan for the lights. Adam is also requesting that the Broadway trees be trimmed.

The next meeting will be set as needed. We adjourned at 5:00 PM on a motion by Shirley, seconded by Becky.

Submitted by Debbie Kinder, secretary