

Tree City Committee Minutes February 17, 2020

Terry Marshall called the meeting to order in the Wisconsin Dells Municipal Building at 5:30 PM. Other members present: Dave Holzem, Shirley Tollaksen, and Becky Gussel.

Minutes of the January 13, 2020 meeting were approved on a motion by Becky, seconded by Shirley.

Debbie reported on a meeting she, Dave, and Fred Westerfeldt had with Brian Wahl of the WI DNR on January 16, 2020. Brian provided guidance on how to fulfill requirements of the grant we have received to hire an urban forestry student to work this summer to update our tree inventory and create a tree management plan for our parks and street trees. He said that many cities are using emmemectin benzoate treatments to keep ash trees alive so their population can be cut gradually. Our ash trees will be treated this summer for the third time. Ash management will be addressed in this plan. Fred predicts that emerald ash borer will peak here in the coming year.

Dave is still checking with MSA about the need to convert our inventory from CAD to GIS in preparation for the summer update. Debbie shared the job description for the grant hire which has been shared with Brian Wahl and Rich Hauer, an urban forestry professor at UW-Stevens Point. Application deadline is March 13.

Dave will open discussions with Thad Meister about moving tree management from Public Works to Parks and Recreation. Tim Hall will also be consulted.

Shirley is working on finding a 4H group to help us celebrate Arbor Day on April 28, 2020. Shirley plans to donate swamp oak saplings to be distributed at the event.

Our next meeting will be March 9 at 4:30. We adjourned at 6:00 on a motion by Shirley, seconded by Becky.

Submitted by Debbie Kinder, secretary