

Meeting Agenda
State College Borough Tree Commission
November 20, 2019
Room 304 / 12:00 pm

- I. Call to Order**
- II. Roll Call**
- III. Public Hour**
- IV. Approval of Minutes**
- V. Discussion Items**
 - A. Work Plan
- VI. Items of Information**
 - A. 2020 Tree Budget
- VII. Reports of Interest**
 - A. Arborist's Report
 - B. Tree Crew Report
- VIII. Other Matters**
 - A. Draft 2020 Meeting Schedule
- IX. Adjournment**

Documents:

[Tree Commission Agenda Packet - November 20, 2019.pdf](#)

Meeting Agenda
State College Borough Tree Commission
Wednesday, November 20, 2019
12:00 p.m.

I. Call to Order

II. Roll Call

III. Public Hour – Hearing of Citizens

IV. Approval of Minutes – September 24, 2019 [Pages 3–6]

V. Discussion Items

A. Work Plan

The Annual Work Plan is developed to help prioritize the work of the Commission. Items on the Work Plan should be related to Council Goals. Tree Commission members are asked to review the 2019 Work Plan [Pages 7-8] and add, delete, or modify it for 2020.

VI. Items of Information

A. 2020 Tree Budget

Council is currently discussing the 2020 Annual Budget and will vote to approve in December. Commission members are asked to review the 2020 proposed Shade Tree Budget.

VII. Reports of Interest

A. Arborist's Report

B. Tree Crew Report

VIII. Other Matters

A. Draft 2020 Meeting Schedule

The Commission should review and approve the proposed 2020 meeting schedule. All meetings will take place or begin at the State College Borough Service Facility with the exception of the two September public hearings. The public hearings will be held in the Municipal Building, located on South Allen Street.

Staff proposes the following meeting schedule for next year:

Wednesday, January 15 at 12:00 p.m.

Wednesday, March 18 at 12 p.m.

Wednesday, July 22 at 8:30 a.m. (Drive-around)

Wednesday, August 5 at 8:30 a.m. (Drive-around)

Tuesday, September 8 at 7:00 p.m. (Public Hearing)

Wednesday, September 23 at 7:00 p.m. (Public Hearing)

Wednesday, November 18 at 12 p.m.

IX. Adjournment

**Meeting Minutes
State College Borough Tree Commission
September 24, 2019**

The Borough's Tree Commission (TRC) met on Tuesday, September 24, 2019 in Council Chambers of the Municipal Building, located at 243 South Allen Street. Ms. Schuckers called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Members Present

Bill Elmendorf; Bruce Rohrbach; and Elaine Schuckers

Also Present

Alan Sam, Arborist/Environmental Coordinator; Jasmine Fields, AmeriCorps Representative; and Stacy Hall, Administrative Assistant

Public Hour

No comments were heard during the public hour.

Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Mr. Rohrbach and seconded by Mr. Elmendorf, the March 20, July 24 and August 6, 2019 meeting minutes were approved as submitted. The vote was unanimously in favor.

Public Hearing

Mr. Sam gave a brief overview of the drive-around procedure along with the deciding factors that affected the tree removal and planting decisions.

Mark Roddy, 218 South Gill Street, asked if a tree could be removed from in front of his home to make room for a driveway to be installed. He presented a picture of his neighborhood and pointed out where trees had been removed for driveways to be installed. He explained he wanted to put in a driveway for the safety of his young son when walking in from the front of the property instead of the side where there was a lot of traffic. He added the tree's roots were getting large and buckling the sidewalk which made for an increased risk of falling. Mr. Elmendorf asked Mr. Roddy if a sidewalk repair notice had been received from the Borough and he answered no. After reviewing the notes on the tree, Mr. Elmendorf said the Tree Commission did not like to remove trees because of a sidewalk and referenced the Borough Street Tree Ordinance. Mr. Sam reviewed the Sidewalk Policy and told Mr. Roddy the Borough would work with property owners to replace the sidewalk block. He added some trees had been removed for construction, but it would need to be appealed to the Public Works Director since the tree was a public resource. He said the value of the tree may need to be paid by the homeowner if removal was approved and explained the appeal process to Mr. Roddy. Mr. Elmendorf suggested Mr. Roddy have the cost of the tree determined and then start the appeal process if so desired.

Caitlin Grady, 704 West Fairmount Avenue, asked if one or two trees could be planted on the Sparks Avenue side of her property. She asked if she and her husband could be involved with picking the location of the new trees? She asked if the cost would be their responsibility, and if it is different depending on the species of the tree? Mr. Sam told Ms. Grady the average cost of all the trees purchased in the Spring made up the cost charged and usually came to about \$100 per tree regardless of the species. He told Ms. Grady he would like their input on where to plant the trees and he would recommend small or medium size trees. Mr. Sam will work with them on choosing the trees.

Ian Boswell, 706 North Allen Street, asked if the dying tree on the Hillcrest Avenue side of his property could be replaced with a Tulip Poplar? The Tree Commission members agreed with his choice.

Pat and Randy Murphy, 260 East Waring Avenue, stated they would like their tree removed replaced with a Linden. The Tree Commission members agreed.

Miranda Pace, 145 Hartswick Avenue, asked if there was an option to cut off a dying branch instead of taking down the entire tree. Ms. Schuckers explained if one large branch was cut off, it would not work. Ms. Pace asked if the tree could be replaced? Mr. Sam explained to Ms. Pace if the tree replacement was held off until the adjacent maple came down, the new tree could be placed right in front of her house.

Tom Litzinger, 427 Easterly Parkway, asked what species the replacement tree would be at his property? Mr. Sam answered a Hybrid Maple was recommended. Mr. Litzinger said the tree slated for removal was very close to the driveway and asked if the new tree would be planted away from the driveway? Mr. Sam said they would plant the new tree farther away from the driveway if underground utilities were not an issue.

Jeff Hyde, 116 Adams Avenue, stated there was a tree at the corner of Adams Avenue and Thomas Street that was spreading and was affecting the tree next to it and asked if the tree could be pruned? Mr. Sam explained that this tree would be evaluated next summer.

Lynn Yingling, 1250 South Garner Street, inquired about the tree at 1251 South Garner Street and asked what it would be replaced with. Mr. Sam answered it would be replaced with a Sawtooth Oak. Ms. Yingling said she had a street tree in front of her property that needed pruning. Mr. Sam noted the Tree Crew was in her neighborhood and it would be taken care of soon.

After hearing from those residents in attendance, Mr. Sam discussed the phone calls and emails from residents who could not attend the meeting.

The property owner at 324 South Patterson Street said even though they realize why the tree on their property needed removed, they were reluctant and asked if Maples could be put back in the largest caliper as possible. Mr. Elmendorf thought it was a reasonable request.

The property owner at 247 McCormick said the lot had been sold and the new owner may be building there. He recommended holding off on planting the proposed new Hackberry tree.

The property owner at 752 Westerly Parkway was concerned the proposed new Ruby Red Horsechestnut tree would get into power lines and would be close to a streetlight and street sign. He requested a small tree be planted such as a Redbud.

The property owner at 809 Westerly Parkway indicated they were okay with the removal but would like it replaced with a Maple or something with Fall color. The Tree Commission had proposed not replacing the tree because of a large Birch tree in the yard. The property owner informed Mr. Sam the Birch tree was going to be taken down. Mr. Elmendorf suggested holding off with the replacement until after the Birch tree was removed.

The property owner at 750 Holmes Street was okay with removal and planting but would like the Tree Commission to consider another location.

The property owner at 834 Hedgerow was okay with the removal, but requested a similar tree be planted that would not produce berries. The Commission proposed a Honeylocust.

The property owner at 850 Stratford Drive requested a tree like the Ash that was removed and would like it planted further from the alley. A Hedge Maple was proposed.

The property owners at 915 Robin Road, 811 University Drive, 225 E. Foster Avenue and 45 Hartswick Avenue called in with questions, but no special requests.

Mr. Sam noted 63 removals were proposed and included 21 different tree species with Sugar Maples making up 43 percent. He added 98 plantings had been proposed.

The Tree Commission decided the trees at 346 East Irvin Avenue were in good health and would not be removed.

Mr. Sam recommended the tree that was blown over in a storm at Weis Market on Westerly Parkway not be replaced.

The members discussed the Pear tree at 301 South Pugh Street that was hit by a truck. Mr. Elmendorf suggested removal and replacement with a Cherry tree.

Regarding 614 South McCormick Avenue, the members suggested removal and replacement with a Sawtooth Oak.

Mr. Sam said a 12-inch Black Locust tree at 841 Hedgerow Avenue was damaged in a storm and suggested replacement with the same species.

Mr. Sam clarified requests from 218 South Gill Street, 518 Locust Lane, 707 West Fairmount Avenue, 1129 Dorum Avenue, 346 East Irvin Avenue and 537 East Prospect Avenue have all been denied.

After all public comments were heard, Mr. Elmendorf made a motion to approve the 2019-2020 Tree Removals and Plantings lists as amended. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rohrbach. The vote was unanimously in favor. The approved lists would be made part of the meeting minutes.

Ms. Shuckers closed the public hearing at 7:50 p.m.

Discussion Items

Mr. Sam explained as a part of the replacement of the James Building at 121-123 South Burrowes Street, the developer had requested one street tree be removed, but planned to plant two new street trees when the new building was completed. He said staff recommended the Tree Commission review the removal request and provide recommendations to the property owner for the new street trees to be planted when completed.

Ms. Schuckers suggested shade trees. After a brief discussion Mr. Rohrbach made a motion to plant a Ginkgo and a Hybrid Maple. Mr. Elmendorf seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Items of Information

Mr. Sam announced Justin Wheeler would be resigning from the Tree Commission as he had moved out of the Borough.

Future Meeting Date

Wednesday, November 20, 2019 at 12:00 p.m. – Service Building

Reports of Interest

Arborist Report

Mr. Sam reported on activities the Tree Crew had undertaken since the last regular meeting. Highlights included:

- Continued tree trimming in the southeast section of the Borough
- Seasonal help was done except for the two long-term part-time employees.
- Will plant about seven left over trees from Spring this week
- Worked with Parks & Recreation staff to clear invasive trees in Walnut Springs Park and will be replanting with native seedlings next week
- Crew did a great job of restoring landscape beds downtown.

Mr. Sam reported on his activities since the last regular meeting. Highlights included:

- Worked on annual budget and sent to Administration and Council. No major changes and no increase. Should be approved in December.
- Inspected trees in local parks.
- Received numerous calls about possible Oak wilt and other Oak diseases and insects this year.
- Ordered a new bucket truck from Altec as the other truck was over 16 years old.
- Worked on a new tree trimming contract for West College Heights as the Greentree Trimming Contract finished up in May.
- Completed Chesapeake Bay Landscape Professional Program and am now certified to inspect rain gardens/stormwater facilities.
- Appointed to the Centre Region Climate Action and Adaptation Advisory Group.
- Recently led another OLLI tree walk.
- Working with a student to do another GHG inventory. Two previous inventories were completed in 2007 and 2014.

Mr. Sam reported on the activities of Jasmine Fields, AmeriCorps Representative, since the last meeting. Highlights included:

- Took the pictures and put the PowerPoint presentation together for the Public Hearing.
- Working with a student to develop a tree app for the Borough.
- Researching tree inventories for urban wood utilization.
- Developing regional recycling campaign with local entities.
- Working on the Bicycle Friendly Business Application.
- Assisting the Public Works Department with the MS4 storm water presentation.
- Attended the Lion Bash event and helped run the storm water display.
- Researching and helping to put together a pesticide use policy
- Developing a plastic bag policy

Other Matters

Mr. Elmendorf announced he had been asked to draft a tree preservation ordinance for Ferguson Township which would be the first tree preservation ordinance in Central Pennsylvania.

Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, Ms. Schuckers adjourned the meeting at 8:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacy Hall
Administrative Assistant

2019 STATE COLLEGE TREE COMMISSION WORK PROGRAM

Recommended by Tree Commission 9/25/2018
Approved by Borough Council _____

Key: H=High, M=Medium, L=Low
I=Initiate Discussion, IP= In Progress, C=Complete, R/C=Review and Comment, BC = Refer to Council

		Priority	Council Goals	1 st Quarter	2 nd Quarter	3 rd Quarter	4 th Quarter	Comments
1.	Planting and Removal Recommendations. Review, comment and make recommendations to the Public Works Director on proposed tree removals and plantings recommended by the Arborist.	H	1, 5			I	C & BC	
2.	Work Collaboratively with Adjacent Tree Commissions. Participate in meetings with Borough, Harris Township, Ferguson Township, and Penn State Tree Commissions to discuss common threats to urban forest as well as coordinate projects.	M	2,3	C				
4.	Identify Planting Opportunities in the Downtown Business District. Continue to identify tree planting locations in the downtown including private property.	L	1, 5, 6	IP	→	→	→	Increase Downtown planting in conjunction with new development.
5.	Incorporate New Street Tree Inventory Information into Tree Program. Develop articles for the CDT, Collegian and other outlets based on information obtained from the new street tree inventory.	H	2	C & BC				Updated Tree Plan completed in 2016.
6.	Review Web Page. Continue to review web page content, organization and accessibility. Schedule meeting with Borough's Communication Specialist.	M	2	I	→	R/C		
7.	Complete new Tree Bike Ride Brochure. Complete brochure that highlights various tree species and their management. Stormwater management will also be highlighted in the brochure.	H	5	IP	C			Draft completed in 2014. Awaiting illustrations.
8.	Evaluate Insect & Disease Threats to Borough's Urban Forest. Following regular updates concerning insect and disease threats to the Borough's Urban Forest, the Tree Commission should offer management strategies to mitigate problems or reduce the Borough's liability.	H	1, 2, 5	IP	→	→	→	Develop information for homeowners on Emerald Ash Borer, Spotted Lantern Fly and other major insect and disease pest for homeowners.
9.	Review Recommended Planting List. Add, delete or modify species and cultivars of trees recommended for planting along Borough streets and rights-of-way.	M	1, 5, 6	IP	R/C	C		Consider reformatting the list to make it more user friendly and help with tree planting decisions. Trees should also be rated for their importance to birds, bees and other pollinators.

10.	Review Policy for Right-of-way Plantings in the Downtown District	M	1,5,6	I	C			Discuss impacts on Borough staff and budgets that installation of plant material in the tree lawn other than trees by new developments may cause.
-----	--	---	-------	---	---	--	--	---