

Meeting Minutes
State College Borough Tree Commission
January 18, 2018

The State College Borough Tree Commission (TRC) met on Thursday, January 18, 2018, in Room A106 of the State College Borough Service Facility, 330 South Osmond Street, State College, PA. Alan Sam, the Borough's Arborist/Environmental Coordinator, called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m.

Members Present

Bill Elmendorf, Lynn Herman, Bruce Rohrbach, and Justin Wheeler

Others Present

Alan Sam, Arborist/Environmental Coordinator; Deb Hoag, Director of Public Works; Steve Shirey, Public Works Tree Division Foremen; Jake Leonard, Public Works Maintenance Specialist; Tanner Kibe, Public Works Dendrician; Autumn Busbee, Community Engagement Specialist; Christine Stephens, AmeriCorps Member; and Stephenie Grove, Administrative Assistant

Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

Mr. Sam stated a Chair and Vice Chair would need to be selected for the 2018 meeting year. He asked for a Chair nomination.

Mr. Rohrbach nominated Mr. Herman and Mr. Herman accepted. The vote was unanimously in favor.

Mr. Sam then asked for a nomination for Vice Chair and Mr. Herman nominated Ms. Schuckers. The vote was unanimously in favor.

Public Hour

Mr. Elmendorf invited Mr. Sam and Ms. Hoag to speak to his Human Dimensions of Natural Resources-590 class to help promote Borough responsibilities in the local parks. Mr. Sam and Ms. Hoag accepted the invitation.

Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Mr. Wheeler and seconded by Mr. Rohrbach, the November 16, 2017 meeting minutes were approved as submitted. The vote was unanimously in favor.

Action Items

Request to Remove Street Tree at 262 Woodland Drive – Residents of 262 Woodland Drive made a verbal request to remove an 8" Swamp White Oak in the tree lawn in front of their property. They have had recent issues with their sewer line. Mr. Sam described

the tree and the repairs done to their sewer line. Mr. Sam recommended the tree be kept due to other options being available. Mr. Rohrbach also stated the tree was in good condition and he was also not in favor of removing the requested tree.

On a motion by Mr. Rohrbach and second by Mr. Elmendorf, The Commission approved to accept the Staff Recommendation to deny the residents request and not remove the tree. The vote was unanimously in favor.

Discussion Items

Responsibilities of the Tree Commission – For the benefit of the new Commission members, Mr. Sam and Mr. Elmendorf briefly reviewed the responsibilities and accomplishments of the Commission.

Items of information

2018 Conflict of Interest Statement – Ms. Hoag explained the 2018 Conflict of Interest Statement to the Commission, which was distributed and made part of the meeting agenda.

2018 Meeting Dates – The Commission reviewed and approved the following 2018 meeting schedule:

Thursday, March 15 at Noon
Thursday, July 19 at 8:30 a.m. (Drive Around)
Thursday, August 2 at 8:30 a.m. (Drive Around)
Tuesday, September 11 at 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, September 25 at 7:00 p.m.
Thursday, November 15 at Noon

Reports of Interest

Arborist's Report – Mr. Sam reported on recent tree related activities. Highlights included:

- The Tree Crew is fully staffed for the first time in several years.
- Mr. Sam started to attend monthly meetings with the Tree Crew and Public Services Manager, Ed Holmes.
- The Borough awarded one last contract in 2017 to Dincher & Dincher Tree Surgeon to deadwood 100 trees before April 2018.
- Borough Council reinstated \$60,000 for contract tree pruning for the 2018 budget.
- Reviewed landscaping and street tree requirements for upcoming projects with the Tree Crew.

- Sending out Request for Quotes (RFQ) for new trees by the end of the month. Desirable to purchase bareroot trees rather than balled & burlapped when available.
- Will send out RFQ for stump grinding by the end of February.

Tree Crew Report – Mr. Shirey reported on the recent tree related activities. Highlights included:

- Started tree removals in November.
- Started trimming trees on W. Doris Avenue in the fall and plan to finish in the spring along with the rest of the neighborhood.
- Erected two holiday trees in November.
- Committed to snow duties to the sidewalk areas around the Borough during the winter months.
- Tree removals completed:
 - 90 out of 130 scheduled street trees.
 - 8 out of 40 scheduled park/right-of-way trees.
- Worked on stump removal list.
- Completed flower bed design and will submit order for plants soon. Flowers will be purchased from Patchwork Farm Greenhouse.
- Mr. Leonard and Mr. Kibe plan to attend the Annual Shade Tree Symposium, January 22 - 23, 2018, in Lancaster, PA with Mr. Sam.

Other Matters

There were no other matters to discuss.

Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, Mr. Elmendorf made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephenie Grove
Administrative Assistant