

WELLSBORO SHADE TREE COMMISSION

MARCH 10, 2025

MINUTES

The Wellsboro Shade Tree Meeting was called to order by Scott Nichols in the council room of the Wellsboro Municipal Building. The Pledge of Allegiance was said by all present.

ROLL CALL: Members of the Shade Tree Commission present were Vicki Fox, Scott Nichols, Brian Kennedy and Tyler Upham. Also present were Borough Manager Louis Rachiele and Teresa Marshall. Visitors were Scott Bray and Brett Mengee. '

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA: Scott Bray was there to discuss the sidewalk project

MINUTES FROM JANUARY 13, 2025 AND FEBRUARY 10, 2025: Brian Kennedy made a motion to accept both of the minutes and Tyler Upham 2nd. Passed.

SIDEWALK PROJECT: Scott Bray talked about the grant for the sidewalk project from East Ave to Waln Street on both sides and the impact that it would have on some of the trees. Some of them would need to be removed because of the roots lifting sidewalk blocks and the tree pits being too small. The shade tree commission has been replacing some of the Sophoras with an elm hybrid and had planned to keep doing. This project may hasten it along a little faster. Brian Kennedy will get a hold of Vinny Controne to look at the trees and give his input for the project. The time frame for the project is to start after Laurel Festival. They are in the process of getting the necessary permits from Penn Dot. The depth of the digging should only go about six inches below the sidewalk depending on what they find. Vicki Fox asked about who would be responsible for the tree removal. We would store the benches and trash cans while the project is going on. There was also discussion on the sewer lateral.

HAZARDOUS TREE REMOVALS: None

CALLERY PEARS – CONSERVATION DISTRICT: Tyler Upham stated that the conservation has \$25,000.00 available for the removal of the callery pears. Brian Kennedy and Brett Mengee have found around 70 trees in the borough. There was discussion on getting the media involved and door knockers put on for the removal of the pear tree and letting the public know what is going on. They would also put out a bid for the removal of the trees.

C2P2 TREE CANOPY GRANT: Brian Kennedy reported on the video meeting that was held in February. They have requested the first draw down of \$25,000.00 after the banking account has been set up. He also had to submit a work plan describing what we were doing and the planting plan. The grant runs from January of 2025 to December 2028.

Darla Guelig has submitted a walking tour plan to Brian that he will e-mail the rest of the board.

TREE CLEARANCE PRUNING: Brian Kennedy plans to start this month to do some basic pruning around town to clear signs and walking heights. Vicki Fox asked about the tree on Norris Street that someone

had pruned. They will look at and will correct if needed. They will also look at the trees the Chief Boyce had mentioned.

TREE TENDERS: They need to have five people take the class to meet the requirements for the grant. Brett Menges and Tyler Upham have just completed the course. Brian and Scott attended the course but it was before January 2025 and will take again when it comes back around. Another possible person would be Eric for the crew.

WELLSBORO WILDS: Brian had talked with Kerry Gyekis about a stewardship plan to clean up the trails and trees at Woodland Park. This would be a good summertime project.

SPRING PLANTING: Brian has sent the order in for ten trees with 3-4 of them being red bud. He had not heard from them yet to see the availability of all the trees. We are looking at an April planting.

ADJOURN: Tyler Upham made the motion to adjourn meeting and Vicki Fox 2nd. Meeting adjourned at 9:20 am.

The minutes were respectfully submitted by


Teresa Marshall