

# WELLSBORO SHADE TREE COMMISSION

## MINUTES

APRIL 14, 2025

The Wellsboro Shade Tree Commission meeting was called to order by Scott Nichols in the council room of the Wellsboro Municipal Building at 8:30 am on April 14, 2025. The Pledge of Allegiance was said by all present.

ROLL CALL: Members present were Vicki Fox, Scott Nichols, Brian Kennedy, Tim Morey and Tyler Upham. Also present were Brett Mengee and Teresa Marshall.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

MINUTES FROM MARCH 10, 2025: Tyler Upham made the motion to approve the minutes as written and Brian Kennedy 2<sup>nd</sup>. Passed

SPRING PLANTING MATCH: Brian Kennedy reported that ten trees have been planted and the report will be done by the May 15<sup>th</sup> deadline using labor figures.

ARBOR DAY – FRIDAY APRIL 25, 2025: Brian reported that we have received our materials for the 29<sup>th</sup> year of being Tree City USA except flag. A possible site would be on Waln Street where Mike White took a tree down.

CALLERY PEARS REMOVAL UPDATE: Brett Mengee reported that the trees have been flagged with blue ribbons and that they have talked with Mike White and will be contacting Platinum Tree Service for removals to be done by November 1, 2025. There will be areas that will be affected the most and it was suggested that we start with East Ave near Rite Aid and Akiko's first for replanting. One tree was topped by the Canyon Motel and will not be replaced. There are approximately 68 trees affected. Tyler suggested doing the inventory updates as we go. Tim went into a discussion concerning updating the public on what is going on. Brian has made a sample of a door knocker to place on the property owner's door concerning the Callery Pears. Mike White has a column in the paper that maybe we could get him to talk about the Callery Pears and the Shade Tree Committee's progress. Funding that was available for this project was provided through a grant from Tioga Co Conservation District. This will also be mentioned on the door knockers.

WELLSBORO CANOPY GRANT PROJECT PROGRESS: Trees are marked with a green ribbon. Mike White and Dincher and Dincher are certified arborists that would be needed to determine the risk assessment of a tree. A quote of \$150.00 per tree was given by Mike White. There would also be a hazardous mitigation program to try and save a tree by structural pruning, cabling or treatments. There would be different bids for both. The checking account that was created for this grant needs to be certified by them to start receiving payments. Also brought up was cost sharing by the customers and public relations on getting this information out. Tyler Upham made a motion that there be an 80-20 match for the Wellsboro Canopy Grant with the property owner. Vicki Fox 2<sup>nd</sup>. Passed

Scott Nichols spoke about if the property owner denies a first time offer for a hazardous tree, the tree becomes the full responsibility of the property owner.

STREET TREE TRIMMING: Brian Kennedy and Brett Mengee and their crews have been trimming up trees for sight clearance and for signs and pedestrian traffic. Brett has marked a street map of the locations that were trimmed. A purchase of two pruning saws was also made. A door hanger will be made up to let property owners know what is going on.

SHADE TREE BUDGET: Brian will meet with Amy to find out where they stand.

STUMP GRINDER: Dincher and Dincher ground out the stumps in front of Beck's Bistro. Ray Statts mentioned to Brian Kennedy that there is a stump grinder that can be attached to the excavator for around \$5-6,000. Brian will check out details and get bids for one.

MASTER GARDENER'S GUIDE: A copy of the guide was submitted by e-mail to the committee for review. They would like to put small markers to identify the trees by each specimen. A motion was made by Brian Kennedy for them to use appropriate ground stakes for identification and Tyler Upham 2<sup>nd</sup>. Tim Morey abstained from voting. Passed.

MAY 6 VISIT (ALTERNATIVE MAY 8) – VINCENT COTRONE: Tyler Upham made a motion to pay for Vincent's travel expenses to come up here for the day. Tim Morey 2<sup>nd</sup>. The reason for this was that his travel expenses had been frozen. Brian will go over the Main Street project, the Hickory tree on King Street, Wellsboro Wilds progress, Callery Pear removals, hazard tree plan and educational piece for early evening for the public named Benefits of Urban Forest. Rain date will be May 8, 2025.

HAZARDOUS TREE REMOVALS: Patrick Lacher – 85 Pearl Street – removal of a maple tree and stump  
Keith Goering – 47 Waln Street – removal of maple tree and stump  
Tim Morey made the motion to accept and Vicki Fox 2<sup>nd</sup>. Passed.

HANDSHAKE BETWEEN BOROUGH RIGHT OF WAY AND PROPERTY OWNER ON SHARED RESPONSIBILITY FOR STREET TREES: The only exception to this would be the Main Street trees between the lights. The others would have shared responsibility. There would be a gradual removal of trees on Main Street and replacement.

ADJOURN: A motion was made by Vicki Fox to adjourn the meeting and was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tim Morey. Meeting was adjourned at 9:49 am.

The minutes were respectfully submitted by

  
Teresa Marshall