

**MINUTES OF THE SHADE TREE COMMISSION
OF THE BOROUGH OF SEWICKLEY
February 10, 2020**

The Shade Tree Commission (STC) convened on February 10th, 2020 in the Sewickley Borough Council Chambers at 601 Thorn Street, Sewickley, PA 15143. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Kathy Brandt at 7:00 p.m.

In attendance were:

Members

Kathy Brandt, Chairperson
Brian Finley, Vice Chairperson (absent)
Andrew Frishkorn, Secretary
Dave Parker
Katie Kirsch

Of Council

Cynthia Mullins - Council Representative

Arborist

Burlton Griffith

Borough Manager

Marla Marcinko

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion by Kathy Brandt, seconded by Dave Parker, the minutes of the January 2020 meeting were unanimously approved.

II. STAFFING UPDATES

Katie Kirsch and Burlton Griffith are now serving as the new STC member and arborist, respectively.

III. OLD BUSINESS – TREE ACTIVITY SHEET

The Tree Activity Sheet was discussed and updated (see Attachment A).

The tree inventory update remains incomplete but is expected to be updated over the next month. Sewickley’s contract with Bartlett for maintaining the inventory database via ArborScope™ extends three years following the date of the initial report (i.e., April 2018 through April 2021). Discussion ensued about getting the GIS data forwarded to Katie Kirsch who is a GIS specialist. Sewickley has a GIS license for ESRI and the data should be added as a layer to the Borough GIS.

The tree removal associated with Purchase Order No. 2019-STC-003 is complete. The arborist confirmed that the work was completed in a satisfactory manner. This invoice of \$16,500 will be applied to the 2020 budget.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

The arborist recommended removal of the Sugar Maple #1091 at 516 Grove Street that was identified as a problem tree by Borough maintenance. The removal was unanimously approved by the STC. Smaller projects under roughly \$20,000 do not need to be advertised in the paper. It was recommended that bids be requested from the six Sewickley-licensed/approved tree removal experts. Andrew Frishkorn requested that the arborist inspect tree #978 on Henry Street as another possible candidate for removal due to dead limbs and a rotting trunk.

The STC concurred with the arborist about development of a plan for removal of over 100 Callery Pears in the Borough. It was proposed that removals begin with trees that drop fruit on parked cars, such as along Centennial. The specific removal plan will be prepared for the next meeting and discussed further at that time.

Removal of the Shingle Oak (#954) at 305 Frederick was briefly discussed, but tabled until an application is submitted. Laura Mikush of the Sewickley Presbyterian Church is seeking a Memorial Tree adjacent to 202 Beaver Street. Discussion of this informal request was tabled until a formal application is submitted.

A memorial tree in honor of Jim Edson was recommended. The STC was in unanimous agreement about the concept, but the official vote was tabled until a formal application is submitted. Dave Parker volunteered to prepare the application. The cost could come out of the STC planting budget.

A draft listing of potential spring planting and pruning sites is being developed by the arborist. The lists will be available prior to the next meeting. Discussion ensued about considering locations in front of the Tull Theater. It was noted that the Tull had a landscaping plan that was never implemented due to inadequate funding.

Specialty pruning was recommended by the arborist for trees in Wolcott Parks and Park Place. It was noted that the STC does not need to approve pruning in Borough Parks and that this work has been handled by Borough maintenance in the past and has not historically been a cost borne under the STC budget.

The arborist mentioned concerns about horizontal borings proposed to be made by Columbia Gas as part of a main gas line extension project on Academy. The arborist is seeking information about the location of the borings relative to the tree roots.

The arborist report was approved after deletions of requests made without the required applications. Additional details of the arborist report are provided as Attachment B.

V. CORRESPONDENCE

Kathy Brandt prepared response letters related to requests from 628 Broad St., 722 Broad St., 517 Centennial Ave. and 651 Grove St. on January 15, as further detailed in Attachment A.

VI. BUDGET

Cindy Mullins provided the 2019 year end budget data as listed below:

Budget Code	Description	Budget	YTD Bid Awards	YTD Invoiced	Budget Less Invoiced Funds	Percentage Remaining
01.455.450	Tree Trim & Remvl	\$50,000	\$48,365	\$17,855	\$32,145	64%
01.455.451	Tree Maint.	\$22,500	\$11,340	\$20,935	\$1,565	7%
01.455.455	Plantings	\$7,500	\$7,341	\$8,553	(\$1,053)	-14%
01.455.457	Arborist Svcs.	\$6,000	\$2,280	\$3,480	\$2,520	42%
01.455.459	Advertising	\$800	\$167.40	\$167.40	\$633	79%
1.455	TOTAL	\$86,800	\$69,493	\$50,990	\$35,810	41%

The budget surplus does not roll over into the 2020 budget. The 2020 budget is as follows:

Budget Code	Description	Budget	YTD Bid Awards	YTD Invoiced	Budget Less Invoiced Funds	Percentage Remaining
01.455.450	Tree Trim & Remvl	\$45,000		\$16,500	\$28,500	63%
01.455.451	Tree Maint.	\$18,000			\$18,000	100%
01.445.452	Mun & Parks	\$5,000			\$5,000	100%
01.455.455	Plantings	\$11,000			\$11,000	100%
01.455.457	Arborist Svcs.	\$6,000			\$6,000	100%
01.455.459	Advertising	\$600			\$600	100%
1.455	TOTAL	\$85,600	\$0	\$16,500	\$69,100	81%

Estimated 2020 Income

01.321.620	Licenses	\$200			\$200	100%
01.367.500	Donations	\$2,500			\$2,500	100%
	TOTAL	\$2,700	\$0	\$0	\$2,700	100%

It was discussed that a line item related to donations made for special projects should be established in the 2021 budget.

VII. ADMINISTRATIVE

Some issues discussed to date that need further clarification in the STC ordinance include:

- (1) Clarified language about tree ownership between the sidewalk and curb;
- (2) Clarified language about responsibility for tree maintenance in Borough Parks
- (3) Hazard zone definition (distance to right-of-way, power lines and/or to neighboring structures);
- (4) Authority to order removal of dead or dying trees on private property for trees that pose an obvious and imminent danger, as identified by the Borough arborist;
- (5) Policy related to sidewalk heave related to borough owned tree roots;
- (6) How to manage donations for special projects

Dave Parker agreed to maintain a more detailed list of recommended revisions to the STC Ordinance.

Concerns have been voiced by public works staff concerning participation in the spring tree planting due to their current work load. In addition to the impact on public works resources with respect to the spring planting, the Borough Manager and Council feel it is important to prioritize work within limited allocated resources which may require a greater percentage of the budget to be dedicated to pruning and maintenance as opposed to additional plantings. The STC will coordinate with the borough manager about the level of support that the STC can expect from public works staff to support the spring planting and maintenance and adjust the scope of work related to the spring planting accordingly.

It was discussed that the STC needs to obtain our inventory data electronically. The STC needs to be able to maintain this data after the 3-year contract with Bartlett/ArborScope™ expires.

VIII. ACTION ITEMS:

OLD

- Update Tree Inventory to be performed ASAP (Bartlett Inventory Tech)
- Develop spring removal, pruning and planting lists. (Arborist)
- Develop plan for removal Callery Pear trees and replanting along Centennial and elsewhere in the Borough as needed. (Arborist)

NEW

- Incorporate ArborScope™ database into the Borough ESRI database (Katie Kirsch)
- Request that borough maintenance and arborist refer residents to the on-line application process when removal requests come through. (Borough Manager)
- Notify Laura Mikush of need to submit an application (Arborist)
- Prepare Application for Edson Memorial Tree (Dave Parker)
- Inspect tree #978 on Henry Street as another possible candidate for removal (Arborist)
- Responsibility for approval of pruning requests in Borough Parks (TBD)
- Establish a line item for donations associated with special projects in the 2021 budget (Council Rep)

IX. ADJOURNMENT: There being no other business before the STC, Chairperson Kathy Brandt adjourned the meeting at approximately 9:10 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: March 9, 2020, 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Andrew Frishkorn (STC Secretary)

Attachment A
Sewickley Shade Tree Commission
Tree Activity Sheet

**SEWICKLEY SHADE TREE COMMISSION
TREE ACTIVITY SHEET**

APPLICATION SUMMARY						SHADE TREE COMMISSION ACTIONS				STATUS				REMARKS	
TRACKING NUMBER	REQUEST DATE	APPLICANT ADDRESS No.	APPLICANT STREET	APPLICANT NAME	REQUEST TYPE	TREE DESCRIPTION & STC RECOMMENDATION	DECISION	RESPONSIBILITY	LETTER ISSUED? (DATE)	REMOVAL COMPLETE	MAINTENANCE COMPLETE	LANDSCAPING PLAN PROVIDED	REPLANTING COMPLETE		DATE CLOSED
40	Dec-18	700/702	Washington	Ferguson / Evans	R	Arborist inspected, one spruce tree under STC oversight. Landscape plan to be submitted.	A	O	Jan-19	Y	N/A	N	N		Landscape Plan to be submitted in August 2019.
62	Aug-19	308/312	Thorn	Ford	R	Request removal of Tree #73 & #74 that are dead	A (2)	B	Y	TBD	N/A	N/A	N		Borough maintenance crew could handle if available.
65	Sep-19	506	Grove	Arborist	R	Declining Tuliptree with dead branches	A (1)	B	N/A	TBD	N/A	N/A	TBD		Arborist to confirm that work was completed. Consider location for spring replanting
66	Sep-19	varies	varies	Arborist	R	Fall Removal Recommendations: 716 ORB (#1682), 748 ORB (#1676), 620 Pine (#1011), 506 Grove (#1087), 242 Bank (#680)	A (5?)	B	N/A	Y	N/A	N/A	N	Jan-20	Arborist to confirm that work was completed.
68	Oct-19	300 block	Centennial	Residents	M	Complaint about DLC pruning	A	B	N	N/A	N	N/A	N/A		Additional pruning to be performed in fall
73	Nov-19	628	Broad	A. Egan	R	Declining Norway Maple. Recommend replacement with ornamental understory tree.	A (1)	O	Y	N	N/A	N/A	N		
74	Nov-19	305	Frederick	St Stephens	R	Christy House - Removal of spruce, crabapple and burning bushes.	A	O	N	N	N/A	N	N		New landscaping proposed. Application needed.
75	Oct-19	710	McDonald	M.Salkeld	R	Removal of Trees. The location of the trees is unclear from the application	A (1)	O	N	N	N/A	N/A	TBD		
76	Dec-19	517	Centennial	D. Beyer	R	Callery Pear Boro # #540 is dropping fruit and damaging car paint, replace with something else	A(1)	B	Y	N	N/A	N/A	N		Resident at meeting. Need to develop plan for removal and replacement of Callery Pears on Centennial. To be added to spring removal list.

**SEWICKLEY SHADE TREE COMMISSION
TREE ACTIVITY SHEET**


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77	Jan-20	722	Broad	S.Figley	R	Request removal of six private trees by Davey Tree. Trees dead or decling.	A	O	Y	N	N/A	N/A	N/A	Jan-20	
78	Jan-20	651	Grove	M. Szymanstri	R	Request removal of Blue Spruce with Needlecast Fungus	A(1)	O	Y	N	N/A	N/A	N	Jan-20	Replanting recommended
79	Feb-20	516	Grove	Arborist	R	Arborist recommends removal of critically damaged tree	A	B	N/A	N	N/A	N/A	N/A		Priority removal. Seek bids ASAP

Abbreviation key

Request: R = Removal; M = Maintenance; C = Commemorative **Letter Issued:** Y = yes; N = No; N/A = not applicable; V = verbal or e-mail communication

Decision: A = Approved; A (LP) = Approved Lanscaping Plan Requested); AR = Removal Approved/Replanting Required (number of trees); D - Disapproved; P = Decision Pending;

Responsibility: O = Owner/Applicant; B= Borough **Status:** Y = Yes; N = No; V = Verify; TBD = To be Determined; W = Initial Requirement Waived; P = Response from Owner Pending

 = Action Required

Attachment B
Borough of Sewickley Tree Commission
Arborist's Report
2/6/2020

Late Fall Early Winter Removals Complete

2/5/20 Verified that Adler Tree Service has completed the contract for previously specified removals. Nice clean up following stump removal. Thank you to the Adler team on a job well done.



Borough Tree Inventory Update

2/3/20 Mr. Sean Clemons, Inventory Specialist with Bartlett Tree Experts, and I reviewed borough tree installation list and began inventory update. 60 of ~150 new installations were recorded. Inventory update is expected to be completed by 2/20/20.

New Borough Tree suggested for removal

Sugar Maple (#1091) in tree lawn at 516 Grove Street

Sewer and Gas line work in December 2019 and January 2020 mandated removal of ~60% circumference of critical rootzone. Previous sidewalk repair (circa 2010-2015?) likely damaged an additional 30-50% critical rootzone. Tree has been declining for some time (10 yr +). Examined tree with Mr. Franco Verbene 1/28/20, following resident concerns over prior limb drop and current damage to root zone. Road, sidewalk, lines, and residences within hazard zone. Previously, tree has been safety pruned for preservation. Now, recommend immediate removal of tree. Though tree is not currently imminently likely to fail while it is without leaves, work should be performed prior to 4/15/20: full leaf expansion will increase sail effect and will create imminent risk of weather related failure. Unfortunate in that this is one of the last mature shade trees in tree lawn on this block.



Other Borough Removals

Jim Edson provided me with a list of recommended removals. This list is under review. Will provide results of review at March meeting,

Callery Pear Removals

At January meeting, Following complaint of resident (application to remove tree due to nuisance fruit; removal was recommended) on Centennial Ave, Tree Commission suggested a phase out of presence of exotic invasive Callery Pear as borough planted tree. Through dataset research, found that there are over 100 Callery Pears recorded in Borough with large concentrations on Centennial, Beaver, and Nevin. Awaiting further instruction from committee as to how to proceed.

New Memorial Tree Suggestion

Would like to suggest that a Memorial Tree for Jim Edson's service to Sewickley's treescape be planted in Park Place (north) in the location where the Colorado (blue) spruce recently uprooted (just north west of Broad Street). Recommend that the memorial tree be a Bur Oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*)—a stately, and long lived tree, well suited to the site and its soil, with distinctive leaves, gnarly branch structure, and tremendous acorns. Recommend this location because Jim has invested so much of himself in the planting and care of this park (Jim installed most of the plants here under the direction and supervision of Mrs. Peggy Rae, of Edgeworth, in 1982).

Spring Planting Sites

Please find list of potential planting sites for Spring 2020 planting included as (excel spreadsheet) attachment. Currently 47 potential installations. This list is incomplete and open to revision at time of writing this report. This list was recently provided to me by Jim Edson and I am in process of verifying the sites and matching recommended plants to sites. Intend to have list finalized by 2/10/20.

Pruning and Maintenance Recommendations

Jim Edson's previous recommendations and the borough tree inventory dataset are currently under review (~2,000 trees in dataset). Intend on having updated maintenance recommendations completed by March Meeting.

Specialty Pruning Recommendations—Late Winter/Early Spring 2020

These require my direct supervision; recommend they be performed by Andrew Kuzma's team at Bartlett Tree Experts. These should occur before leaf expansion.

Recommend that one Scaffold Limb of Sweet Gum (#1818) in Wolcott Park be reduced in length to minimize the risk of failure.

Recommend Scaffold Limb Reduction of Crab Apples (#1788-1791) in Park Place North over Ohio River Boulevard. Police Assistance (light board/lane closure) will be needed.

Respectfully submitted,

Burlton Griffith
Sewickley Borough Arborist
Sewickley.trees@gmail.com

Enclosure:
Partial Spring Planting List

Possible 2020 Planting sites

#	Street	# of sites	Comments
205	Bank Street	1	under wires replacement
242	Bank Street	1	
515	Bank Street	1	
400's	Bank Street	3	st James School (check count)
963	Beaver	2	replacements on Boundary
625	Broad	1	Vanessa Parrotia replacement
	Centennial	1	replacement for cal pear
500 block	Broad	3	Exclamation' London Planetree replacements at Citizens and 521
526	Cochran	3	we suspect the former trees were killed with extended life round up 2-3 years ago
	Graham	2	at south end of middle school soccer/football field
506	Grove	1	
516	Grove	1	replacement for sugar maple with cut roots
630	Grove	1	
506/508	Grove	1	
817	Nevin	1	replacement on Cochran
320	Ohio River Boulevard	4	
716	Ohio River Boulevard	1	
748	Ohio River Boulevard	1	
804	Ohio River Boulevard	1	
628-644	Ohio River Boulevard	5	possible sites need to
700-710	Ohio River Boulevard	2	2 POSSIBLE SITES
804/808	Ohio River Boulevard	1	
	Park Place	1	replacement for the Spruce that up rooted south end of north side.
620	Pine Road	1	Webers would like a bigger tree - they would pay the extra cost
	Riverfront Park	1	south end by parking lot - replacement
308/310	Thorn	2	
237	Walnut	1	parish mansions
242	Walnut	2	St James rectory
340	Walnut	1	

TOTAL 47