

**MINUTES OF THE SHADE TREE COMMISSION  
OF THE BOROUGH OF SEWICKLEY  
March 9, 2020**

The Shade Tree Commission (STC) convened on March 9<sup>th</sup>, 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. At about 7:30 smoke began filling Council Chambers due to exercises being performed by the fire department.

In attendance were:

**Members**

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

**Of Council**

Cynthia Mullins - Council Representative (absent)  
**Arborist**  
Burlton Griffith

**I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

On motion by Katie Kirsch, seconded by Dave Parker, the minutes of the February 2020 meeting were unanimously approved.

**II. STAFFING UPDATES**

None

**III. OLD BUSINESS – TREE ACTIVITY SHEET**

The Tree Activity Sheet was discussed and updated (see Attachment A). The tree inventory update remains incomplete by Bartlett. Katie Kirsch was provided with the existing inventory database. She reported that the Sewickley GIS license for ESRI has expired and needs renewed before the data can be added as a layer to the Borough GIS.

**IV. NEW BUSINESS**

On motion by Andrew Frishkorn, seconded by Dave Parker, the arborist report was approved. Additional details of the arborist report are provided as Attachment B. The Tree Activity Sheet was updated accordingly (see Attachment A).

A draft listing of potential spring planting sites/species was developed by the arborist. A bid for the trees was received from Tree Mendous, LLC for 36 trees (roughly 10.1K including shipping). Discussions ensued about the availability of Borough maintenance staff to support the spring planting. The issue

was tabled until the Borough staff availability could be determined. Subsequent to the meeting, the spring planting was cancelled due to the PA COVID19 Stay at Home Order.

Bartlett offered to provide seedlings in Bartlett containers to distribute at May Mart. In the past the STC raffled off a tree. Options were to be discussed with the Borough Manager. Subsequently, May Mart 2020 was cancelled.

**V. CORRESPONDENCE**

None

**VI. 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

Budget Code	Description	Estimated Income	YTD Income	YTD Pledges	Comment	Percentage Received
01.321.620	Licenses	\$200	\$0	\$0		0%
01.367.500	Donations	\$2,500	\$0	\$0		0%
	TOTAL	\$2,700	\$0	\$0		0%

**VII. ADMINISTRATIVE**

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

OLD

- (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;

New

- (7) Develop standard procedure for Borough and/or Zoning officer communication with STC related to Borough Trees;
- (8) Develop a policy concerning costs recovery for damages to Borough Trees by vehicles, etc.

#### **VIII. ACTION ITEMS:**

##### **OLD**

- Update Tree Inventory to be performed ASAP (Bartlett Inventory Tech)
- Develop plan for removal Callery Pear trees and replanting along Centennial and elsewhere in the Borough as needed. (Arborist)
- Incorporate ArborScope™ database into the Borough ESRI database (Katie Kirsch)
- Notify Laura Mikush of need to submit an application (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)

##### **NEW**

- Award contract for removal of two structurally deficient trees (#978 & Memorial Park) (Arborist/Borough Manager)
- Request documentation related to zoning approval/permit for curb cut (Brandt) and inspect location to determine if there is a location for a new or relocated tree at 818 Centennial (Arborist)

**IX. ADJOURNMENT:** There being no other business before the STC, Chairperson Kathy Brandt adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:40 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING:** TBD, 2020, 7:00 p.m. (April cancelled due to COVID19 Stay at Home Order)

*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	Y	N/A	N/A	TBD	Mar-20	Arborist to confirm that work was completed. Consider location for spring replanting
68	Oct-19	300 block	Centennial	Residents	M	Complaint about DLC pruning	A	B	N	N/A	N	N/A	N/A	Mar-20	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	Y	N/A	N/A	N	Mar-20	
74	Nov-19	305	Frederick	St Stephens	R	Christy House - Removal of spruce, crabapple and burning bushes.	A	O	Y	N	N/A	N	N	Mar-20	New landscaping proposed. Application requested, no response.
75	Oct-19	710	McDonald	M.Salkeld	R	Removal of Trees. The location of the trees is unclear from the application	A (1)	O	Y	N	N/A	N/A	TBD	Mar-20	Not in hazard zone
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. <b>To be added to spring removal list.</b>

**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	
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
80	Feb-20	818	Centennial	Benedict	R	Removal/Relocation of Hop Hornbeam for driveway installation	P	B	N	N	N/A	N/A	TBD		Needs inspected. Confirm permit for driveway. Transplanting does not work well.
81	Mar-20	237	Chestnut	Villella	R	Sewer problems #654	D	B	N	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Mar-20	Tree in good condition
82	Mar-20	--	Park Place	STC	C	Plant Bur Oak	A	B	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N		Memorial Tree - Jim Edson Borough Arborist 19XX to 2019
83	Mar-20	306	Henry	Arborist	R	Decling tree #978 - structurally deficient. Replace with black gum	A(1)	B	N/A	N	N/A	N/A	N		Prompt action needed prior to leaf expansion
84	Mar-20	--	War Memorial Park	Arborist	R	Decling tree - structurally deficient. Replace with Bald Cypress	A(1)	B	N/A	N	N/A	N/A	N		Prompt action needed prior to leaf expansion
85	Mar-20	432	Centennial (Locust)	Arborist	O	Tree needs protected from delivery trucks. Tree on Locust Pl.	A	B	N	N/A	N	N/A	N/A		Coordinate with Boro to install protective fencing

**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**  
**3/4/2020**

**Tree Work completed:**

- No tree work has been scheduled since the February meeting.
  - Emergency removal (expected completion 3/5/2020) of failing snag at N Riverfront Park adj Chadwick is described below.

**Requests for action of Borough trees:**

**Move Hophornbeam at 818 Centennial (M Benedict) for driveway install:**

Both trees in tree lawn at front of property are newly established, currently stable, and in good health. Inventory notes suggest pruning for managing canopy/wire conflict in future, with which I agree, as hop hornbeams slowly grow to a height of 30-40 ft; pruning not yet necessary. Transplantation root injury negatively impacts health, longevity, and structure of established trees. Application does not specify which tree is to be moved, nor to where it would be moved. ***Moving established trees is risky business and not generally recommended. Recommend if to be performed the following conditions must be met.***

Transplant cannot be relocated to any position closer than a radius equal to the height of an adjacent established tree lawn tree (without impacting health of adjacent tree, which would then require additional responsive care). Final location would have to meet borough approval. Transplantation must be performed during recommended 'dormant' periods (Feb-April or Oct-mid Dec), preferably autumn. Transplantation must be performed to applicable standards (ANSI A300 (part 6)) and by trained/experienced individuals, and must preserve maximal root volume, avoid injury to trunk, ensure proper replanting height and positioning, and ensure stability via staking. If performed successfully, transplanting either of these newly established trees will create significant stress for involved plant and will predispose to potentially fatal attack by bark/ambrosia (and other) beetles. Preventative pesticide applications are therefore required for at least two growing seasons post-transplant for success (preferably for number of years per inches dbh—3" dbh→3yr). These applications must be prescribed and carried out by pesticide applicator licensed and qualified tree healthcare specialist(s). Supplementary watering (to supply total of 1" combined natural and artificial irrigation per week, July-September) must be provided during dry periods in first growing season post-transplant.



**Remove Red Maple (#654) at 237 Chestnut due to Sewer Line concerns**

~12" dia (semi-) mature tree in good health. Would benefit from structural pruning. Sewer line infringement is a tricky subject. Tree roots can and do affect sewer lines. Hard to pinpoint tree involved. Lots of complicating factors. Due to root graft and 'zombie root' phenomena, tree removal may not solve problem. Once damaged, sewer lines are readily recolonized by tree roots sometimes from surprisingly long distances. ***Tree removal is not recommended.***





**Emergency Dead Elm Removal at Riverview Park, Chadwick Street:**

A large Elm snag (standing dead tree) began to fail in recent wind event. Snag was located on berm at northern end of Riverview Park, near parking area, on Chadwick. Snag temporarily hung up in adjacent mulberry and suspended in vines. Fence and high value street lamp in immediate hazard zone. Viewed failing snag w/ F Verbene 3/4/2020. **Andrew Kuzma with Bartlett Tree Experts is sending crew to perform emergency removal 3/5/2020.** Estimated cost 2,500. Area is densely vegetated with planted and naturally recruited trees. No replacement necessary.



**Assess Sugar Maple (#978) 306/310 Henry Ave**

Following Mr. Frishkorn's request for inspection, the Sugar Maple on Henry Ave was found to be structurally deficient, with declining growth and reduced aesthetic value, with likelihood of failure increasing with time, and (following repeated observations over course of 1 month) with near constant presence of vehicles within hazard zone; **this tree is in need of prompt removal, prior to full leaf expansion in May.** This tree is also listed as review/ removal recommended on 2018 inventory. This maple currently provides considerable value to wildlife with multiple nest cavities visible and constant occupation by (fox) squirrels and numerous indigenous birds (wrens, titmice, chickadees, and downy woodpeckers present at every inspection in February). However, structural deficiencies present clear threat to people and property. This tree should be removed prior to full leaf expansion and potential nesting of migratory birds. This tree's most substantial injuries were incurred by road and sidewalk maintenance/construction. Additionally, many local historic sugar maples are declining in correlation to trend of increased night temperatures. It's recommended replacement, Black

Gum, a species with spectacular fall color, moderate value to wildlife, and considerable longevity (and tolerance to warmer temperatures), is included on spring planting list.



#### **Assess Multi-trunk Silver Maple at War Memorial Park**

Following alert of F Verbene (3/4/2020), inspected multi-trunk silver maple in War memorial park. Tree is at North Eastern area of park adjacent and north of northern children's play area. Tree has history of repeated failure where included (ingrown) zones between multiple trunks have been source of previous failures. Remaining trunks present immediate threat to adjacent play areas: failure of southwestern-most trunk will almost certainly risk damage to people or property, as could center trunk.



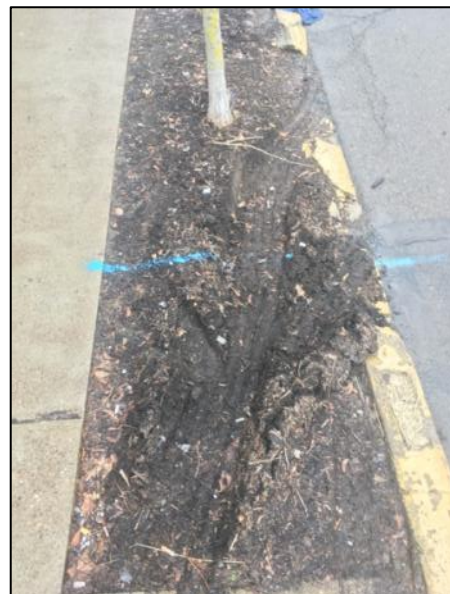
***Likelihood of Failure of trunk greatly increases with increased weight and sail effect of leaves and additional growth of adventitious roots within included tissue zone, therefore removal recommended prior to full leaf expansion in May.*** Site is very wet (adj to seep/streamlet) recommend Bald Cypress, a charismatic, narrow-crowned, long-lived, usually single-trunked taxon as replacement, included in spring planning list.

#### **Assess Two Leaning Silver Maples at War Memorial Park**

While onsite 3/4/20 w/ F Verbene also assessed two silver maples with slanted trunks near northernmost pavilion in war memorial park. While 'leans' were concerning, both trees were found to be of good health and sound structure with minimal basal injury. While potential failure could impact historic pavilion structure, ***current health vigor and structure of trees suggests that failure is currently unlikely and removal is not necessary.*** Curiously, one tree presented recent ~1/8" holes in bark localized in very small area on NW side of tree at ~40" height. Examination w/ pocket knife confirmed suspicion that holes were caused by projectiles not beetles or other wood boring insects. Recommend that trees not be used for target practice. Repeated Trunk wounds greatly diminish vigor and longevity.

#### **Assess leaning Ginkgo (#1410) at 432 Centennial**

K Brandt raised concerns of potential truck/construction damage to this tree. Inspected 2/18/20. Found tree to have distinct lean with reaction growth older than 2 years but otherwise in good health with roots quite secure. Tree was also listed as leaning and having trunk wound in 2018 inventory, shortly after it was installed. This tree's lean could be corrected with only minor injury and setback to plant. Lean not likely to cause long-term structural issue. Did find damage to curb and tire track within planting zone. ***Recommend installation of temporary protective fencing for trees adjacent construction zones.***





Example fencing <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dot-highway/tree/TreePreservation.html>



Other Tree protection resources

<https://www.smgov.net/uploadedFiles/Portals/UrbanForest/Maintenance/TreeProtectionGuidelines.pdf>

<https://comp.ddot.dc.gov/Documents/Tree%20Protection.pdf>

<https://www.nycgovparks.org/pagefiles/84/tree-protection-details.pdf>

**Spring Planting:** I am including a revised and updated list for the spring planting. There are 34 sites on the list, including where trees are being replaced following removals and per resident requests. Still waiting for final figure from plant broker but anticipate cost of trees delivered to borough to be around \$9,000. Plan to have final quote for March meeting.

**Maintenance recommendations**

Andrew Kuzma with Bartlett is proposing a number of applications to maintain plant health of borough trees. Would like to review with Commission. Will have his proposal by March meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Burlton Griffith  
Sewickley Borough Arborist

Enclosures:  
Spring Planting List

2020 Planting sites

#	Street	# of sites	Comments	genus	species	name
205	Bank Str	1	under wires replacement	capinus	caroliniana	am hornbeam
242	Bank Str	1	service wires	hamamelis	virginiana	witchazel or alt leaved d
515	Bank Str	1		carpinus	caroliniana	am hornbeam
400's	Bank Str	2	st James School (check count) underwires	cercis	canadensis	Redbud
963	Beaver	2	replacements on Boundary--dead cornus mas--overhead wires	cercis	canadensis	redbud
625	Broad	1	Vanessa Parrotia replacement	aesculus	pavia	red buckeye
500	Broad	3	Exclamation' London Planetree replacements at Citizens and 521	amelanchii	laevis	serviceberry
517	Centenn	1	replacement for cal pear			exclamation london plane
526	Cochran	3	we suspect the former trees were killed with extended life round up 2-3 years at	Cercis	canadensis	Redbud
	Graham-	0	at south end of middle school soccer/football field	Gymnoclad	dioicus	kentucky coffeetree
335	grant	1	under wires new	cercis	canadensis	Redbud
506	Grove	1	mostly mapls	nyssa	sylvatica	black gum
516	Grove	1	replacement for sugar maple with cut roots	nyssa	sylvatica	black gum
630	Grove	1	kathy's house maples on street	nyssa	sylvatica	black gum
506/508	Grove	1	maples	nyssa	sylvatica	black gum
817	<del>Nevin</del>	0	<del>replacement on Cochran</del>	?	?	?
320	Ohio Riv	4		celtis	occidentail	hackberry
716	Ohio Riv	1		celtis	occidentail	hackberry
748	Ohio Riv	1		celtis	occidentail	hackberry
804	Ohio Riv	1		celtis	occidentail	hackberry
628-644	<del>Ohio Riv</del>	0	possible sites need to			
700-710	<del>Ohio Riv</del>	0	2 POSSIBLE SITES			
804/808	Ohio Riv	1		platanus	occidentail	sycamore
	Park Pla	1	replacement for the Spruce that up rooted south end of north side.	Quercus	macrocarp	Bur Oak JPE MEMORIAL
620	Pine Rox	1	Webers would like a bigger tree - they would pay the extra cost	Quercus	muhlenber	Chinkapin Oak
	Riverfro	1	south end by parking lot - walnut st landing- elm replacement	Quercus	muhlenber	chinkapin Oak
308	thorn	1	under wires--mostly zelkova	crataegus	viridis	winterking hawthorn
310	Thorn	1	under wires--mostly zelkova	crataegus	viridis	winterking hawthorn
237	Walnut	0	parish mansions-	Cercis	canadensis	redbud
242	Walnut	0	St James rectory	Cercis	canadensis	redbud
340	Walnut	0		Cercis	canadensis	redbud
		32				