

**MINUTES OF THE SHADE TREE COMMISSION
OF THE BOROUGH OF SEWICKLEY
May 2, 2022**

The Shade Tree Commission (STC) convened on May 2, 2022, in Council Chambers. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Kathy Brandt at 7:00 p.m.

In attendance were:

Members

Kathy Brandt, Chairperson
Dave Parker, Vice Chairperson
Andrew Frishkorn, Secretary
Katie Kirsch, GIS Manager
Christopher Crayton (absent)

Of Council

Cynthia Mullins - Council Representative (absent)

Arborist

Andrew Tomaskovic

Visitors

None

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dave Parker made a motion to approve the April minutes which were unanimously approved.

II. STAFFING UPDATES

None

III. OLD BUSINESS AND TREE ACTIVITY SHEET

The updated tree activity list is provided as Attachment A.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Tree Removal/Maintenance Applications

No Applications Received. However, a letter was received requesting removal of tree at 426 Logan Street. The request was tabled until an application is submitted.

The Arborist report from April 12, 2022 and associated updated tree removal list were discussed (Attachment B). Katie Kirsch recommended that the Arborist speak with Tall Timber and Adler about the issues with their recent work. Kathy Brandt had a conversation with Valerie Gaydos (State Representative) concerning funding for removal of the high-risk trees located within PennDOT's Right of Way. Andrew Frishkorn made a motion to approve the Arborist report, which was unanimously approved.

Administrative Process Discussion

Dave has a meeting scheduled with the Borough Manager to discuss the development of a bid document template. Andrew Frishkorn requested that Dave Parker ask the Borough Manager if the Sewickley police can provide traffic control for the high-risk removals or if that will need to be included in the scope of work for the pending bid documents. The removal of the high-risk trees on Ohio River Blvd should be an advertised project since the cost is expected to be high.

The revised draft application is being worked on. Dave Parker wants to ensure that there is a place for the applicant to attest that all information listed on the application is accurate. Kathy Brandt wants to ensure that application specifies the owner of the tree.

Katie Kirsch mentioned that the Borough has a new ArcGIS license, but she has been unable to get access to it. The license is held by the Council of Government (COG) which is a group of municipalities. How this license is shared is unknown. The STC has not received the data from Luke's Eagle Scout project. The project was to develop a database of the memorial plaques in Sewickley.

V. CORRESPONDENCE

See Section IV.

VI. BUDGET

Budget status is summarized in Attachment C. A question was raised.... Does the STC budget cover emergency tree failures or is that covered under a separate Borough rainy day fund.

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) Clear policy related to sidewalk heave related to borough owned tree roots
- (6) How to manage donations for special projects
- (7) Develop standard procedure for Borough and/or Zoning officer communication with STC related to Borough Trees and/or private tree to be removed within the hazard zone identified during building permit applications.
- (8) Develop a policy concerning costs recovery for damages to Borough Trees by vehicles, etc.

- (9) Add information to the STC website or to the application for residents who desire a tree be planted in an open space near their home.
- (10) Consider review of example ordinances available via Tree Pittsburgh when the ordinance is updated.
- (11) The ordinance (Section 267-9) needs to be considered for modification. The STC would like to consider removing the requirement for multiple advertisements and council approval of in-budget non-emergency tree plantings and removals, because this requirement can have an adverse impact to scheduling STC approved work (adding up to 2 months to the decision process) for expenditures that are less than or equal to the previously approved STC budget. The requirement for written notices to the adjacent property owners would be retained.
- (12) After the application is approved, a permit should be issued for private removals/planting, similar to a building permit.
- (13) Dave Parker made multiple comments on the ordinance and circulated markup on November 11, 2021.

NEW

- None

VIII. ACTION ITEMS:

OLD

- Plaque Inventory (Luke Hotchkiss – Eagle Scout Project) – field work complete, awaiting data
- Develop Informational Post Card using advertising budget to request residents avoid use of lawn herbicides around trees. (Brandt/Mullins)
- Mulch party needs arranged for many trees in the Borough to protect them from mowers and herbicides (TBD)
- Application Form Update (Parker), Review by all (STC); needs to address Memorial Trees and Pruning in addition to removal. Update pricing for memorial trees. Indicate that Memorial Trees will be performed during other routine plantings that occur once or twice a year, so that people understand that trees will not be planted immediately. and make it clear that trees will be planted during other routine plantings. The cost of transportation and installation of the tree needs to be accounted for in addition to the base cost of the tree. The plaques are ordered through Sewickley Graphics and Design and sent to Franco who puts them in concrete. The actual cost of the plaque and trees vary depending on the verbiage and tree type.
- Purchase Tree Tags (Arborist)

NEW

- Provided Feedback to Tall Timber and Adler about pruning issues (Arborist)
- Meeting with Borough Manager – Request for Quotation (RFQ) Template (Parker)
- Get Access to ArcGIS (Kirsch)

IX. ADJOURNMENT: There being no other business before the STC, on motion from Andrew Frishkorn, and unanimously approved, Chairperson Kathy adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:15 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be held June 6th, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers.

Respectfully Submitted, Andrew Frishkorn (STC Secretary)

Attachment A
Sewickley Shade Tree Commission
Tree Activity Sheet

Insert Shade Tree Activity List Here

Attachment B
Borough of Sewickley Tree Commission
Arborist's Report

Tree Notes: April 12, 2022

Completed Pruning Work

Today I inspected the pruning work on Frederick, Henry, Little, Pine, Woodland, Academy, and Ohio River Blvd. It appears all specified trees were pruned.

A few aberrations: trees #966 and #954 on Frederick, as well as #973 and #974 on Henry, had scaffold limbs headed back, instead of reduced or removed in accordance with the ANSI A300 pruning standard. Tree #1169 on Academy had a 4"-5" diameter flush cut on the main trunk. All of these cuts are not in alignment with the "Limitations" section of the "Tree Pruning Specifications" document that the contractors received with the bid request packet. They are also not in keeping with industry best practices. Almost certainly the Certified Arborists of the companies who performed the work would recognize this.

I also visited all the trees on the "2018 Sewickley Tree Inventory Recommended for Removal" list. Of the 42 trees on the list, 26 have already been removed, 10 are unclear to me why they're on the list (it seems to me they should be retained), 4 have been added to the current "Trees Recommended for Removal" list, 1 should be pruned, and 1 I was unable to locate (tree #1893 4" DBH cherry at 634 Beaver St).

-Andrew Tomaskovic, ISA BCMA #PD-2452B

Trees Recommended for Removal: last updated 04/12/2022

- (4) #1727 pin oak on Ohio River Blvd (at rear of 246 Bank St): extensive inonotus around more than 50% of the root collar at base
- (4) #1725 pin oak on Ohio River Blvd (at rear of 230 Bank St); extensive inonotus at base of tree and stem decay at base on tension side
- (4) #1722 pin oak on Ohio River Blvd (at rear of 218 Linden Ct); inonotus observed on buttress roots, tree has a lean out over the road
- (4) #1715 and #1716 pin oaks on Ohio River Blvd (at rear of Sewickley Community Center at 15 Chadwick St); extensive inonotus around more than 75% of root collar circumference at base of #1715, some inonotus at base of #1716
- (4) #1662 pin oak at 788 Ohio River Blvd: ganoderma found at base on sidewalk side
- (4) #1678 pin oak at 736 Ohio River Blvd: extensive inonotus fruiting bodies around base
- (4) #1699 pin oak at 320 Ohio River Blvd: inonotus around 50% of root collar on tension side
- (4) #1701 pin oak at 320 Ohio River Blvd: tip dieback, fungal fruiting bodies at base
- (3) # 578 maple at 911 Centennial Ave: extensive sapwood rot and basal decay on tension side
- (3) #1024 oak at 640 Pine Rd: ganoderma fruiting bodies present at base and on main trunk; tip dieback throughout
- (3) #1621 and #1622 maples at 723 Maple Ln: stem cankers present at main unions, large trees with greatly increased likelihood of failure
- (3) # 734 pagoda tree on Broad St near Frederick: large canker on trunk; structurally compromised
- (3) # 699 pagoda tree at 334 Broad st: decay on trunk near base, tip dieback throughout, significant decay on top side of remaining limb over road, tree is in decline
- (3) # 717 pagoda tree at 222 Broad St: trunk canker present, currently around over 30% of trunk circumference, will continue to spread
- (3) # 363 maple at 406 Peebles St: half the crown is gone, decay and trunk cankers on tension side, likely to fail within 5 years
- (3) # 470 horsechestnut at 146 Centennial Ave: sapwood decay on tension side of main trunk, likely a result of previous topping cut
- (3) #883 norway maple at 400 Bank St: decay in main stem of lead over the street; end-weight reduction pruning evident from recent years, presumably to reduce likelihood of lead failure
- (3) # 964 norway maple at 225 Frederick Ave: cavity about 6' high on trunk, damage to buttress root on tension side
- (2) #1280 and #1281 maples on Cochran St at Beaver St: root damage and decay, general decline symptoms
- (1) #1341 and #1342 tree lilacs also on Cochran St: general decline symptoms
- (2) # 814 maple at 706 Harbaugh St: general decline symptoms
- (2) #1634 maple tree at 639 Maple Lane: stem and trunk cankers, branch unions very weak
- (1) #1476 pear tree at 863 Nevin to be removed at request of Susan Slater
- (1) # 86 small cherry at 230 Thorn St: dead (Robert Hartley memorial tree)
- (1) #1891 small cherry on Logan St (by Copelands): mostly dead
- (1) # 981 small japanese snowbell at 324 Henry Ave: dead, tiny, low risk

*Trees are ranked from (1) to (4) based on priority, with 4 being the highest priority

-Andrew Tomaskovic, ISA Board Certified Master Arborist #PD-2452B

**Attachment C
Budget Status**

Budget Versus Actual Report - Fund 01 General Fund April 30, 2022							
	<u>2022</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>	<u>YTD</u>
	<u>Budget</u>	<u>1/31/2022</u>	<u>2/28/2022</u>	<u>3/31/2022</u>	<u>4/30/2022</u>	<u>as of Date</u>	<u>% of Budget</u>
01 455 211 Materials & Supplies	2,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0%
01 455 450 Tree Trim/Removal	85,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	52,420.00	52,420.00	62%
01 455 451 Tree Maintenance	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0%
01 455 452 Tree Maint-Mun&Parks	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0%
01 455 455 Plantings	3,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0%
01 455 457 Arborist Services	35,000.00	0.00	0.00	3,825.00	1,500.00	5,325.00	15%
01 455 459 Advertising & Mailings	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0%
TOTAL - CULTURE - RECREATION - SHADE TREES	125,000.00	0.00	0.00	3,825.00	53,920.00	57,745.00	46%