

**MINUTES OF THE SHADE TREE COMMISSION
OF THE BOROUGH OF SEWICKLEY
June 21, 2021**

The Shade Tree Commission (STC) convened on June 21st, 2021 via a recorded Zoom Meeting due to COVID 19 social distancing requirements. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Kathy Brandt at 6:29 p.m.

In attendance were:

Members

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

Of Council

Cynthia Mullins - Council Representative

Arborist

Burlton Griffith

Visitor

Andrew Tomakovic

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dave Parker made a motion to approve the May minutes which was seconded by Kathy Brandt and unanimously approved by attending board members. Burlton was thanked for his excellent service.

II. STAFFING UPDATES

The Borough Manager has been dismissed. The Arborist indicated he intends to resign his position on or before July 1st, 2021 due to a life status change.

Andrew Tomakovic is interested in filling this role. He is an independent consulting arborist and is not affiliated with a tree removal company. He was recommended for the position by Mr. Griffith. Mr. Griffith indicated that the position requires approximately 10 to 12 hours per month. Mr. Tomakovic requested that a description of the position be developed. A summary of the duties was described by Mr. Frishkorn at the meeting.

III. OLD BUSINESS AND TREE ACTIVITY SHEET

The updated tree activity list is provided as Attachment A.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

The Brochure was updated. Tall Timber removed trees and stumps but has not sent in their invoice yet. The Spring planting was completed.

Arborist Report

The arborist reviewed his report. Andrew Frishkorn made a motion to approve the arborist report which was seconded by Dave Parker. The arborist report was subsequently unanimously approved and is provided in Attachment B.

V. CORRESPONDENCE

None

VI. BUDGET

The current budget status is provided as Attachment C.

Burlton has worked 74 hours through June 21 (~6 months). His rate is \$100/hour. He estimates the job requires 12 hrs. per month. His rate is \$100 per hour.

Mr. Tomakovic provided a verbal quote of \$150/hour for arborist services. Therefore, hiring Tomakovic may require between \$18,000 and \$21,600 per year. The budget established during the Edson years of \$6,000 will be inadequate to hire Mr. Tomakovic, unless we find another arborist that is willing to volunteer. Ms. Mullins indicated that we could move money between categories of our budget if needed, as long as we do not exceed our overall budget.

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) A roll-call vote is required going forward, while voting via Zoom meetings
- (10) Zoom meetings will be recorded and will remain on-line until the recording can be replaced by the approved meeting minutes.

- (11) 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.
- (12) Consider review of example ordinances available via Tree Pittsburgh when the ordinance is updated.
- (13) 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.

NEW

None

VIII. ACTION ITEMS:

OLD

- Determine responsibility for approval of pruning requests in Borough Parks (TBD)
- Plaque Inventory (Luke Hotchkiss – Eagle Scout Project)
- 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)
- 816 Hill Street - Need Code enforcement to tell them they need to remove the tree. We will send a letter telling them to go to code enforcement. (Brandt)
- Review the GIS dashboard that Kirsch sent around (all).
- Check with construction team about the unauthorized removals of Ginkgos (Parker).
- Inspect trees at corner of Little and Thorn Streets (Arborist)
- Communications with Borough Manager are required for multiple issues (Brandt)
- Hire new Arborist (STC, Council and Borough Manager)

NEW

IX. ADJOURNMENT: There being no other business before the STC, on motion from Andrew Frishkorn and seconded by Dave Parker and unanimously approved, Chairperson Kathy Brandt adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:45 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: July 19, 2021, 6:30 p.m. via Zoom. ID: 834 1640 5019; Passcode: STC

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	Y	N	Jun-21	Landscape Plan submitted. Eisler Landscaping working on it
83	Mar-20	306-310	Henry	Arborist	R	Declining tree #978 - structurally deficient. Replace with black gum. Recommend full root plate (mound) be ground (w stump grinder) and site be regraded prior to next scheduled planting. Adjacent property owner also requested that site be regraded.	A(1)	B	N/A	Y	N/A	N/A	N		Removal complete 7/17; Replanting not possible due to old roots. Dedicated stump grinding professional might be recommended over "licensed tree expert". Paul Muders (Lone Star Horticultural Services) pmuders@verizon.net 412-527-3114 is one such contractor.
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. Previously Shared fencing concept images with M Marcinko, K Brandt, and STC. 1x6 or 2x4 fencing should be mounted to sidewalk and curb with concrete anchored screws and should have exclusion zone signage.
86	Apr-20	Ball-field	Chadwick	J.Davis	R	J. Davis of QVRA requested removal of #1399 and 1400 due to interference with ballfield lighting. Bartlett directed to remove 1399 by M Marcinko.	A	B	V	Y	Y 1399 N 1400	N/A	N/A	Jun-21	Tree 1399 removed 4/7/2020. Pruning Elm recommended for #1400. To be performed in the winter. Site of 1399 Replanted.

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87	May-20	634	Beaver	Borough Maint.	M	Callery Pear #245 in front of Hyde Travel needs specialty pruning. natural pruning system: goals - weight reduction/ structural pruning to reduce risk of leader/ limb failure and clearance pruning: reduce or remove branches/leads on building side to achieve 30% reduction of length (~4-8ft reduction; branches 1-4"); reduce/remove branches/leads to provide 8-10ft clearance over lawn and sidewalk (cuts 1-4"); reduce no more than 25% overall crown. remove resulting debris.	A	B	N/A	N/A	N	N/A	N/A		Select contractor to perform work. Recommend completion deadline of OCT 2021. Bartlett has been briefed on specialty pruning specifications
89	May-20	224	Thorn	J Platt	R	Dead Tree - removal requested and approved. Replanting recommended	A (1)	B	Y	Y	N/A	N/A	Y	Jun-21	Add to 2021 replanting lists.
90	May-20	615	Nevin	No App	O	Inspection of tree requested of potentially dangerous trees. #1454 squeaking/declining. Tree approved for removal.	A (1)	B	Feb-21	Y	N/A	N/A	Y	Jun-21	recommendation changed from pruning to removal on 6/8/20. Replanting in Spring 2021
95	May-20	703	Harbaugh	No App	R	Decling Hardy Rubber Tree #807. Tree pruned by Bartlett following resident complaint. Arborist recommends removal in next bid package.	A (1)	B	Feb-21	Y	N/A	N/A	Y	Jun-21	

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98	May-20	--	Walnut St	Grapevine Garden Club	R	Removal of Norway Spruce #1762, hew and pruning of Oak in parklet. Plans for replanting provided, including planting 1 new deciduous tree and shrubs.	A (1)	B	V	Y	N/A	N/A	Y	Jun-21	Pruning should be performed between Nov 1 and Apr 1. Soil test and nutrient application recommended. Council approved plan and Club will take care of expenses.
100	Jun-20	509	Grove	Arborist	R	Norway Maple (#1075); Declining/Storm Damaged	A (1)	B	N/A	Y	N/A	N/A	N	Jun-21	Removal completed 3/21
101	Jun-20	136	Centennial	Arborist	R	Hose Chestnut (#472), Declining/Storm Damaged	A (1)	B	N/A	Y	N/A	N/A	Y	Jun-21	Removal completed 3/21, Replanting Scheduled for Spring 2021
102	Jun-20	302	Beaver	Arborist	R	Application pending for removal of 2 damaged/declining trees	P	O	N/A	N	N/A	N/A	N		No action until application received.
103	Jul-20		Varies	Arborist	R	Eleven (11) small caliper dead trees need removed: #691, 763, tree at 544 Centennial, 517 Broad, and about 7 others. Lawn care herbicide use is suspected for several of these trees.	A (11)	B	N/A	Partial	N/A	N/A	N	Jun-21	Bartlett can remove some but slow. Unlikely that Borough Maintenance can remove these. May need to hire an open end contractor to handle removal of small trees on a more timely basis (3 days to one week).
104	Aug-20	310	Bank	Resident via Franco	M	Silver Maple - pruning of Dead Branches (no application)	A	B	N/A	N/A	N	N/A	N/A		Scheduled for Fall 2020
105	Aug-20	340-342	Henry	Resident via Franco	M	Norway Maple (#984) and Sugar Maple (3985) - pruning of Dead Branches (no application)	A	B	N/A	N/A	Y	N/A	N/A	Jun-21	Scheduled for Fall 2020

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106	Aug-20	220	Bank	Barton & DeForest	R	Bald Cypress (#858); application for removal (although application references Beech). Same tree requested in 2018 (#24) and 2019 (#54), and previously denied. Resident offers to pay for removal but did not offer to pay for replanting as specified during previous years. The cost for tree replacement is typically \$800 to \$1000. The proposed contractor is not licensed in Sewickley. Additional pruning recommended.	D	O	N	N/A	N	N/A	N/A		<p>Pruning recommended: natural pruning system: goals are to promote central leader and improve structure and provide clearance: reduce codominant leader growing towards house by 40-60% of length: final pruning cut should be less than 8inches; reduce or remove low branches to provide 8ft radial clearance from house, 10-12 ft height clearance to sidewalk and 14-15ft height clearance from road. remove resulting debris.</p> <p>Obtain contractor: Bartlett has been briefed. Specialty pruning (structural-maintenance). Can be completed year round. Rec this work be combined with ITEM tracking number 124.</p>
107	Aug-20	310-316	Peebles	Rice	R	Declining Freeman Maple (#369), impacted by bleeding canker disease. Non-urgent removal recommended	A (1)	B	N/A	Y	N/A	N/A	Y	Jun-21	Replanting scheduled for Spring 2021

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108	Sep-20	248	Linden Ct	Borough Maint.	R	Emergency Removal. Replacement with Blackgum recommended Tree #1278.	A(1)	B	N/A	Y	N/A	N/A	N/A	Jun-21	Scheduled for replanting Spring 2021. RESIDENT DEMANDED THAT 2021 SPRING INSTALL BE IMMEDIATELY REMOVED. TREE WAS PLANTED ELSEWHERE
109	Sep-20	727	Thorn	Borough Maint.	R	Autumn Flowing Cherry (#183) - Dead tree removal. Stump grinding needed. Recommend replacement with Redbud	A(1)	B	N/A	Y	N/A	N/A	Y	Jun-21	Stump grinding required. Scheduled for replanting Spring 2021. Stump ground and redbud planted.
110	Sep-20	56	Beaver	Courtney	R (5)	Requested removal of Five Trees. Replacement with four new trees	A(4)	R	at mtng	Y	N/A	N/A	N		Recommend followup with resident regarding replanting
111	Sep-20	402	Pebbles	Arborist	O/R	Ash Tree #190 damaged. Recommended for routine inspection. Possible removal in 2022 and replacement with smaller tree (redbud, hornbeam, serviceberry, etc.)	A	B	N/A	N	N	N/A	N		Monitor. Recommend tree be removed and replaced with smaller format tree (underwires location) ie service berry, redbud, hopnornbeam, hornbeam,etc
112	Sep-20	205	Bank	Arborist	R(1)	Declinging Sugar Maple (#851) recommended for removal. Replace with dogwood or Hornbeam	A(1)	B	N/A	Y	N/A	N/A	N		On removal list. Tall Timber gave price
114	Sep-20		Borough Wide	Arborist	M	Mulch needed around trees to protect from string trimmers	A	B	N/A	N/A	N	N/A	N/A		Recommend tree tender volunteer force be developed and deployed for regular tree tending events.
115	Oct-20	318	Grant	Pollino	R	Maple with Dead Branches	A	R	N	Y	N/A	N/A	N/A	Jun-21	Other trees on side of property are marked for removal.

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118	Oct-20	623	Cochran	D'Antonio	R	Callery Pear #1324 -dropping debris and sticky fruit	A	B	N	N	N/A	N/A	N/A		Not a priority. Other Callery pears in parking areas greater priority like 500 and 600 blocks of Centennial. STC did not accept arborist proposal of removal of all trees in 500 and 600 blocks: desired phased removals be completed over 3-4 years. Tall timbers submitted estimate for removal of all trees on the two blocks.
120	Oct-20	600	Chestnut	Krey	R	Pruning of Honeylocust Natural pruning system: goals-building, sidewalk, and street clearance: building clearance-remove one large ~8inch dia branch/lead that is growing towards building; street clearance--reduce/remove branches as necessary to create 14-15ft height clearance over road.	A	B	N	N/A	N	N/A	N/A		obtain contractor: clearance pruning: can be performed any time of year. Combine with clearance pruning of all other honey locusts on block (clearance to building, sidewalk, and street: reduce remove branches as necessary to obtain 4ft ground to sky clearance from building, 10-12 ft height clearance over sidewalk and 14-15ft height clearance over road: all cuts shall be less than 3" dia).

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121	Oct-20	884	Thorn	Minn	R	Pruning of Norway Maple #814. Specialty pruning: natural pruning system: goals-establish new central leader and provide clearance to service drop: reduce/remove current leader of tree to provide for 18-24inches radial clearance from service line: final cut 2-3inch dia; select/preserve branch/lead to SW to establish as new leader; prune remaining branches as necessary to provide 18-24 inch radial clearance to service drop: all cuts less than 2inch dia; remove resulting debris.	A	B	N	N/A	N	N/A	N/A		Obtain contractor: specialty pruning (maintenance). Can be performed year round, tough summer fall or winter best. Bartlett has been briefed.

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123	Nov-20	720	Maple	Eakes	M	Structural and Clearance Pruning of #1528 and 1599. Goals--Prune Dogwood and Cherry to promote central leaders and provide clearance over road and sidewalk: natural pruning system: reduce/remove branches/leaders to promote central leader and provide 7-10 ft clearance over sidewalk and 10-12 ft over road: 1-3.5inch dia cuts: remove no more than 20% potential foliage: note--cherry leader over road is too big to remove entirely-- it must be reduced; remove resulting debris.	A	B	N	N/A	N	N/A	N/A		Obtain contractor: specialty pruning (maintenance). Can be performed year round, tough summer fall or winter best. Bartlett has been briefed.

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124	Nov-20	264	Bank		M	Maintenance Pruning for Bald Cypress. Branches near power drop causing problems and away from houses. Also root knees need removed by resident. Pruning Goals-- clearance to houses, service lines, sidewalk, and street: natural pruning system: reduce or remove branches as necessary to provide 8 ft radial clearance from houses, 3-4ft radial clearance to service lines, 10-12 ft height clearance above sidewalk and yard, 14-15 ft clearance above street: remove resulting debris.	A	B	N	N/A	N	N/A	N/A		Obtain contractor: clearance pruning (maintenance). Bartlett has been briefed. Recommend be combined with other bank st bald cypress specialty pruning ITEM tracking number 106.
127	Jan-21	818	Hill	Burrelli	R	Arborist observed 2 dead spruces in hazard zone. Recommends resident be requested to remove them.	A	O	Y	Y	N/A	N/A	N/A	Jun-21	
128	Jan-21	607	Maple	Schaerli	R	Removal of dead and dying Hemlocks. Recommend that resident decide how to proceed.	A	O	N	Y	N/A	N/A	N/A	Jun-21	
129	Jan-21	847	Thorn	Kubinski	R	Zelkova with structure problems and lifting sidewalk	A (1)	B	Y	Y	N/A	N/A	N		Stump removed. Replant with Redbud, Serviceberry or Hawthorn in 2022

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132	Feb-21	312	Ohio River	N/A	N/A	Failure of Pin Oak - Tree #1702	N/A	TBD	N/A	Y	N/A	N/A	Y	Jun-21	Inspect other nearby trees. Replanting complete. Inspection complete. Report detailing class 2 tree risk assessments of 60 pin oaks along 65 (ORB) will be made available when borough has budget to pay for it (\$2,000) and upon request. Removal of one tree recommended. Pruning of several others recommended. Monitoring of several others recommended.
133	Feb-21	515	Bank	N/A	R	Dead Tree #820 Scheduled for removal	N/A	B	Feb-21	Y	N/A	N/A	Y	Jun-21	Letter issued. Scheduled for replanting Spring 2021.
134	Feb-21	904	Beaver	Bergman	R	Removal of mature private pines requested. Arborist recommends pruning to 4 feet from house to reduce impacts to gutters.	D	O	Y	N/A	Y	N/A	N/A	Jun-21	

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137	Mar-21	646 and 662	Maple Lane	Arborist	M	Large Sycamores with dead branches need pruned. Goal-- Safety pruning: natural pruning system: remove all dead, broken, and hanging branches 2inches and greater through the crown. Remove resulting debris.	A	B	N/A	N/A	N	N/A	N/A		Obtain contractor. Work can be completed year round though best in winter for visibility and avoidance of hazardous leaf hairs
138	Mar-21	105	Beaver	Arborist	R	Tree Damaged by car accident	A(1)	B	N/A	N	N/A	N/A	N		Removal recommended. Obtain contractor.
139	Mar-21	819	Centennial	Arborist	R	Dead Tree Recommended for removal	A	O	Y	Y	N/A	N/A	N/A	Jun-21	Letter from Borough Manager
141	Mar-21	530	Academy	Simmons	O	Sidewalk repair requested. Repair denied. Arborist recommends tree removal due to rotting base. Borough must obtain tree removal contractor and coordinate scheduled power outage with duquesne light and permit road closure for work.	D	B	N	N	N/A	N/A	N		Arborist communicated with Resident re sidewalk. Borough MUST obtain contractor for this removal. Tall timbers has been briefed. Grahams Tree Service has also been notified. Justin Evans is lead from Duquesne Light. Scheduled power outage must occur for tree to be removed. Borough must post no parking signs and permit street closure fore removal. Borough, Duquesne Light, Tree Removal Contractor must coordinate.

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142	Mar-21	506	Grove	Sarson	R	Does not like Cyprus in front of yard or Carolina silver bell (#1086)	D	B	N	N	N/A	N/A	TBD		May consider transplant in fall followed by replanting. Inspect other tree periodically
143	Apr-21	305	Thorn	Luff	M	Requested pruning of trees near service line.	P	TBD	N	N/A	N	N/A	N/A		Attended meeting. No application submitted
144	Jun-21	632	Blackburn	Miller	R	Tree Dead corner of Blackburn and Hill	A	O	N	N	N/A	N/A	N/A		
145	Jun-21	807	Hill	Kramer	R	Worried about leaning private tree	A (NR)	O	N	N	N/A	N/A	N/A		The resident can decide the fate of the tree but the Arborist is not concerned that this tree will fail. There is no evidence that the tree has moved. Removal is not recommended.
145	Jun-21	240	Linden	Sluborski	M	Request for pruning due to low branches.	A	B	N	N/A	N	N/A	N/A		Prune branches ≤3" to provide 10 feet clearance over sidewalk and 12 to 14' over road.

Abbreviation key

Request: R = Removal; M = Maintenance; C = Commemorative; O = Other **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);

A(NR) - Removal Approved but not recommended; 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

 = New item

Insert Shade Tree Activity List Here

Attachment B
Borough of Sewickley Tree Commission
Arborist's Report
6/21/2021

WORK PERFORMED

Spring Planting is Mostly complete. One tree (Black gum) could not be installed at 520 grove street due to persistent roots of previously removed sugar maple. **Extensive stump/root grinding and regrading of this site is recommended prior to next replanting attempt.** Property owner also requested that tree lawn be regraded. Franco Verbene suggested that this tree be installed in open site at "319 Centennial" at left of Amato building 601 Broad Street. A blackgum would be a welcome addition to the callery pears present in this area. Borough Municipal team will plant this tree if approved.

Following vigorous/frantic resident complaints after installation of tree at Linden Ct, Franco Verbene directed that the tree (galaxy magnolia) be dug up by contractor and then reinstalled in open site adjacent parish mansions on Frederick, where a small memorial elm had died and had been removed by municipal works in the past 8 weeks. Residents at parish mansions and the party responsible for the memorial plaque had requested prompt replacement for the elm. They got it.

One tree (burr oak) that was initially destined for Academy but was redirected to chestnut street following resident complaints could not be installed at chestnut street location because of conflict with water valves. That tree is now going to be installed in one of the Parks, with Municipal Works performing the planting.

Sylvan Gardens performed the spring planting admirably and handled a flurry of last-minute changes with extreme grace. The final list of planting locations will submitted to the STC following Borough installation of said trees.

Recently installed DD Blanchard Southern Magnolia sited on Beaver near Mediterra Café was pruned for sidewalk and road clearance by this arborist following alert from Kathy Brandt.

Several small dead trees, numerous stumps, and three hazardous live trees were removed by Tall Timbers. All removals were previously approved by STC. The declining Norway Maple on Harbaugh near the Middle School (opposite 717 Harbaugh) could not be removed because its removal notice was not published and the solicitor interpreted it as a non-emergency.

UPCOMING WORK

Pin Oak (#1182) at 530 Academy to be removed soon. This will require power interruption for numerous residents. Duquesne Light is actively planning removal, with notifications of power interruption going out once Tree contractor details are worked out. Tree removal will necessitate 100ft crane and bucket truck, with full street closure during active work.

Again, this tree is being removed because of structural deficiencies not sidewalk heave. Removal was approved at previous STC meeting.

APPLICATIONS

Application- Private Tree- 632 Blackburn Rd – dead tree removal request.

Dead private tree was a Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum*), 8-12in dbh, with numerous ROW within hazard zone). Tree has buried root collar. May have been a grafted cultivar. Some wood boring beetle activity visible at basal trunk. Trunk flattening on 1-2 sides is indicative of subterranean basal trunk injury most likely caused by encircling and girdling roots. Crown dieback pattern where top center of tree declined and died 1-3 years prior to rest of tree decline is indicative of basal trunk injury (vascular interruption) and was possibly symptom progression of girdling root syndrome, though progressive lesions caused by soil borne pathogens colonizing physiologically stressed buried trunk tissues (and graft 'scar' tissues) would lead to similar decline syndrome. Bark and ambrosia beetle attack was likely proximal cause of tree death, while buried basal tissue was root cause. The resident had some concerns that recent infrastructure work may have caused tree's decline; however, because all work was done more than 6ft from trunk and less than 40% of radial root space was affected said work was not as significant a factor in tree decline as the buried root collar. Buried root collars are incredibly injurious to most trees but especially so to dogwoods and sugar maples. As tree is dead, **RECOMMEND IT BE REMOVED**. Thank you to resident for her patience with the review process and for completing a removal application. This dead tree was brought to borough attention about a month and a half ago. Should resident want to replant, Downy Service Berry (*Amelanchier arborea*), White flowering dogwood (*Cornus florida*), Hop Hornbeam (*Ostrya virginiana*), Crabapples (*Malus spp*), and Brackens Brown Beauty Southern Magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora* 'Brakens Brown Beauty') are top recommendations for medium format trees for the site.



Application- Private tree- 807 Hill St – ‘Leaning’ Hemlock removal request

In Application, applicant claims tree has changed angle of growth/lean following recent storm and therefore tree should be removed. Upon inspection, Hemlock (50-60ft tall, ~20in dbh) was found to have a lower trunk angle of ~75degrees above level (25deg off plumb), with no sign of soil heaving or tip up mound or holes present. Heaving/mounds/holes are expected when a tree lists following windthrow. Fence at left perimeter opposite lean shows no sign of lift or disfigurement. The root flare is exposed and basal tissues are in pretty good condition with only minor mower injury evident. No cracks evident.

Moderate infestations by hemlock injurious Elongate Hemlock Scale, and Hemlock killing Hemlock Woolly Adelgid were observed using binoculars and by direct observation of windblown branchlets present on sidewalk and street. Hemlock Woolly Adelgid infestation typically kills eastern hemlocks within 7 years of onset, though emerging biocontrol may be capable of reducing hemlock mortality in the near future.

At a height of about 30 ft the trunk curved back to near 90deg above level (almost vertical/plumb). This form is consistent with a tree that grew at an angle “stretching/leaning” for light and upon finding its place in the sun, resumed a more upright growth habit. That the entire upper part of the trunk is currently near vertical and branches on both sides of the trees lean are pendant at complimentary angles suggest that the tree is stable and has not undergone significant trunk movement since the lower limbs developed, perhaps 40+ years ago (55?). Google Earth® time stamped street views support that the tree trunk has not significantly changed lean in available photographic record: the tree had a ~75deg trunk angle in 7/2016 also. Aerial imagery indicates some adjacent shade causing trees were removed between 2012 and 2014, and topographic irregularities (mound and hollow stump traces) visible from street indicate that other trees were likely present to the north and west shading base of hemlock more than 25 years ago.

As tree shows no sign of change of angle of trunk in past 7 years, and site shows no sign of significant movement of trunk base or roots, this Arborist is skeptical of the claim that the tree has “moved”. Thus, removal would not be recommended; however, as adelgid infestation is usually fatal to eastern hemlocks, and it is likely that the tree will be dead within a few years without intervention, removal may be warranted in the near future. **Therefore, I recommend either that the STC vote directly (separately) on whether the removal application should be approved or that the resident be allowed to determine the fate of this tree.**



No Application/Email Request- Borough Tree- 240 LINDEN CT –Clearance Pruning requested

Resident notified borough that European Silver Linden (brough tree ID #1374) has low branches that are making it difficult to mow turf lawn and resident requested that the limbs be pruned for clearance. Arborist verified that low limbs have encroached lawn and make mowing difficult. Tree has also lifted two sidewalk plates. Tree has recently been through pruned for clearance from overhead power lines. Tree has very poor structure with most scaffold limbs originating in 3-4ft length of trunk. Pruning to correct structure (to reduce long-term likelihood of limb and trunk failure) is probably impossible at this point. However, tree likely remains viable for at least the next two to three years. Therefore, **Recommend clearance pruning: tree should be pruned using branch reduction or branch removal cuts to provide 10-12ft clearance over resident lawn and 12-14 ft clearance over road, with all pruning cuts less than or equal to 3 inches in diameter.**



Happy Father's Day to all the Dads, and Happy Summer to everyone. It has been an Honor serving as Sewickley Borough Arborist. Thank you all.

Respectfully submitted,

Burlton Griffith

Sewickley Borough Arborist until 12AM 7/1/2021

ATTACHMENT C

**Revenue/Appropriation Analysis Report
Borough of Sewickley
For 5/31/2021**

Run: 6/07/2021 at 11:13 AM

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General Fund

	Prior Year Budget	Prior Year Actual	Estimated Budget (Adopted)	Y-T-D Actual	M-T-D Actual	Budget Remaining
<u>Revenue Analysis</u>						
Total Revenue Analysis	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<u>Appropriation Analysis</u>						
01 455 211 Materials & Supplies	0.00	0.00	0.00	106.00	106.00	(106.00)
01 455 450 Tree Trim/Removal	45,000.00	32,920.00	46,000.00	7,895.00	0.00	38,105.00
01 455 451 Tree Maintenance	18,000.00	4,542.50	5,000.00	1,840.00	0.00	3,160.00
01 455 452 Tree Maint-Mun&Parks	5,000.00	3,080.00	5,000.00	4,500.00	0.00	500.00
01 455 455 Plantings	11,000.00	8,711.72	24,000.00	8,935.00	8,935.00	15,065.00
01 455 457 Arborist Services	6,000.00	0.00	6,000.00	6,600.00	0.00	400.00
01 455 459 Advertising & Mailings	800.00	182.00	800.00	291.40	291.40	308.60
Total Appropriation Analysis	85,600.00	49,436.22	86,600.00	29,167.40	9,332.40	57,432.60

**Revenue/Appropriation Analysis Report
Borough of Sewickley
For 5/31/2021**

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General Fund

	Prior Year Budget	Prior Year Actual	Estimated Budget (Adopted)	Y-T-D Actual	M-T-D Actual	Budget Remaining
<u>Revenue Analysis</u>						
01 321 620 Tree Expert License	200.00	275.00	300.00	350.00	25.00	50.00
Total Revenue Analysis	200.00	275.00	300.00	350.00	25.00	50.00
<u>Appropriation Analysis</u>						
Total Appropriation Analysis	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

**Revenue/Appropriation Analysis Report
Borough of Sewickley
For 5/31/2021**

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General Fund

	Prior Year Budget	Prior Year Actual	Estimated Budget (Adopted)	Y-T-D Actual	M-T-D Actual	Budget Remaining
<u>Revenue Analysis</u>						
01 357 500 Tree Plaques & Donations	2,500.00	1,535.00	2,000.00	0.00	0.00	(2,000.00)
Total Revenue Analysis	2,500.00	1,535.00	2,000.00	0.00	0.00	(2,000.00)
<u>Appropriation Analysis</u>						
Total Appropriation Analysis	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00