

## Shade Tree Commission Minutes

March 10, 2022 at 7:00 pm

City Council Chambers

**In attendance:** Katherine Ziff, Ben Ziff, Christine Fahl, Roxanne Male'-Brune, Nancy Walker, David Riggs and Ann Bonner  
Guests: Mary Reed.

Absent: Jim Dyer, Katherine Ann Jordan, Andrew Stone

Roxanne brought the meeting to order. Nancy nominated Chris Fahl as the chair person. Fahl accepted. Motion carried.

Minutes from last meeting reviewed and accepted.

**Title 33:** no items for discussion

**Title 37:** David Riggs reported that Marietta Memorial Hospital may revise their plan including their landscape plan. In that case, they would come before the tree commission again.

### **Maintenance of the tree canopy:**

- Code office maintains information on the cities right of way locations.
- Best management practices were discussed. The international society before culture has books on pest management practices for working around trees. ANSI standards a 300 as well as a 133 also provide guidance and specifications for working around trees.

### **Action items reviewed:**

Pollinator Plaques: David and Roxanne are working on this. <https://www.ci.athens.oh.us/630/Pollinator-Gardens>

Letters to property owners?

County courthouse tree update?

Suggested Tree list, including native trees is on the website. DONE

<https://www.ci.athens.oh.us/DocumentCenter/View/9425/Native-Tree-List>

### **Duties of the Tree Commission were outlined.**

The Shade Tree Commission keeps and maintains public information as well as makes recommendations to staff and to the Planning Commission. The primary duties and responsibilities of the Shade Tree Commission as set out in Athens City Code are:

1. Determine the problems and needs of the City tree planting program
2. Recommend the type of trees that should be planted on City property
3. Provide information to the public about trees and tree maintenance
4. Conduct regular meetings of the Shade Tree Commission

In addition to these primary duties, the Shade Tree Commission also is responsible for the following codified duties and responsibilities:

1. Make recommendations to the Safety Service Director for the planting, pruning or removal of trees in the right-of-way
2. Maintain a list of qualified companies that perform tree work in the City of Athens
3. Maintain a list of native trees, shrubs, and plants acceptable for planting in the City
4. Maintain a list of invasive and noxious plants
5. Maintain a list of pollinator-friendly plants acceptable for planting in the City
6. Review the Title 41 – Site Plan Landscaping Plans and make recommendations to the Planning Commission for approval of the landscaping plans including tree banking

Uncodified but recommended Shade Tree Commission duties, closely tied to their primary duties:

1. Pollinator-yard permit review and recommendation
2. Celebration Tree permit review and recommendation
3. Arbor Day event celebration/proclamation
4. Tree City USA application submission

Tree Bank: According to code, the Service Director has discretion over the Tree Bank. Monies are not exclusively for trees. **Menards agreed to purchase 392(?) trees for the city on the condition that the city will cover planting. 333(?) trees are still available. COULD THE ATHENS ARBOR DAY PLANT THESE FOR THE CITY? This would save the city from the expense of contracting out the planting and tree care and ensure that that the trees are planted correctly, as the Arbor Day Committee follows ANSI standards for tree planting. Mary all but offered this.**

Arbor Day:

Arbor Day celebration and a Mayor's Proclamation are required annually to be a TREE CITY USA. This can be a simple or elaborate event. Lots of discussion. No tasks were assigned and no planting site designated. Mary Reed of the Athens Arbor Day Committee expressed her group's interest in working with the City and the Tree Commission on this.

Some ideas for Arbor Day...A COVID Grove, planting shade trees at W. State Street for the parking lot. Making paper? Hearts for people to purchase? And display on trees they love.

Athens Arbor Day Committee did agree to hand out tree seedlings at the Athens Farmers Mkt and document that activity for TREE CITY USA.

DATES to Remember:

TREE CITY USA Awards Program May 6<sup>th</sup> at Secrest Auditorium in Zanesville

TREE COMMISSION ACADEMY July 19 and 20<sup>th</sup> at Bishop Educational Gardens 13200 Little Cola Rd. Rockbridge, OH. Invites and registration materials will be emailed in May.

Respectfully submitted by A. Bonner