

TIPP CITY TREE BOARD

TIPP CITY, MIAMI COUNTY, OHIO September 10, 2014

Tree Board Meeting

The Tipp City Tree Board meeting was called to order at 5:15 p.m. by Chairman DeRoss.

Roll Call

Members in attendance included: Tom DeRoss and Joanna Pittenger. Also in attendance were Chuck Wade, Karen Jackson, Park/Street Superintendent Jim Asher, Tree Crew member John Montgomery and Board Secretary Marilyn Fennell. Mr. DeRoss said they would wait a while to see if Mr. Blake arrives.

Approval of Minutes

June 11, 2014

Mrs. Pittenger **moved the minutes of June 11, 2014 be approved as presented.** Mr. DeRoss seconded the motion. Motion passed 2-0.

Items not on the Agenda

Mr. DeRoss said he reviewed the Emerald Ash Borer policy and a report needs to be forwarded to Council. This can be discussed later in the meeting. He also added he needed a report from John Montgomery on the Ash tree management. Another topic was something discussed at the ODNR Summer Conclave he had recently attended regarding urban trees outliving their usefulness.

Board member Blake arrived

(Mr. Blake arrived at 5:20.)

New Business

Tree Plantings/Removals
342 S. Second St.-
remove by owner

Mr. DeRoss was not sure there was a provision in the code for property owners to remove the trees in the curb lawn. Mr. Asher said in the past we have allowed owners to remove trees. Mr. Wade said he wishes to remove the maple tree because it is right in front of storm sewer, it's beginning to raise the sidewalk, the street light hasn't worked in 4 years as it is covered by the tree, and the seeds are really bad in the spring. Mr. DeRoss said it does appear to be a healthy tree. Mrs. Pittenger said the placement was not a good selection and it does block the streetlight. She agreed with removal. Mr. Asher agreed with the removal by owner. Mr. Montgomery commented that the average life span of a street tree is 30 years which is different from a tree you might plant in your yard.

(Mrs. Fennell found §97.02 requires "any property owner desiring to plant or remove street trees is required to submit an application to Tree Board for approval".) Mr. Wade said he was willing to take the tree down. The Board agreed with the removal.

Mr. DeRoss said maybe there needs to be an amendment to the code regarding the life span of a street tree. Mr. Montgomery

**Guest- Karen
Jackson-questions
of Board**

said he would try to get copies of the code from Springfield and/or Troy.

Mrs. Jackson said she is a 25-year resident and a retired teacher from the Tipp school system where she taught all subjects but ended up in language arts and science. She said she thought trees were important to our city. She asked if the Tree Board was strictly an advisory board. Mr. DeRoss said the decisions of maintenance and removal is one discussed with the staff and decisions are made by the Board. She verified that the Board has jurisdiction of the street trees and trees in the parks. Mr. DeRoss said that was correct. Mrs. Fennell said the ordinance is online and she would also be glad to make a copy of the Tree code for her. Mrs. Jackson said she found some information online. She then asked why some trees are removed and others are not. Mr. Asher said the dead/dying/dangerous trees are given preference. Trees in the right-of-way are considered. Mrs. Jackson asked if trees are removed without permission. Mr. Asher said it has happened but not too often. The Tree Board has made the public more aware of what is needed. She asked about the arborist position. Mr. Montgomery stated he is one of two arborist on staff and they are hired by the electric department.

Mrs. Jackson asked about keeping the electric lines cleared. Mr. Montgomery explained what is needed to keep the electric on in the City. There are some DP&L lines that are maintained by their crews and they do their own pruning.

There was discussion on the amount of tree coverage. Mr. Asher said the last survey done listed approximately 3,000 trees in the curb lawn. Mrs. Jackson thought it would be interesting to find out the percentage of tree cover in the City. Mr. DeRoss said of course the city finances are always a big problem. One of the challenges is not to have another ash tree problem. Diversity is key to that. Mr. Asher said the State of Ohio planted 35,000 seedlings in Kyle Park a few years ago. Probably half of those have died. Mrs. Pittenger said just recommending the proper tree for the location is important. The City staff also is working with the Board. The downtown project and other street projects have received advice from the Board on varieties and type of soil to be used.

220 N. Garber Dr. –
Remove 2 Ash

These are ash trees and are to be placed on the removal list as any other ash trees will be.

112 W. Walnut St.-
Remove Maple
(linden actually)

The tree is a Linden tree but the sidewalk is greatly compromised. Mr. Asher said the sidewalk program is being started up again but he was not sure when or what locations. At the time of replacement this tree will have to go most likely due to

	the root size. The Board agreed to hold off on removal until the sidewalk is to be replaced.
841 Arapaho Tr. – Remove Ash	This is another Ash that will be placed on removal list.
427 W. Plum St.- Plant by City	The Board agreed to a Japanese Tree Lilac at this location. There was discussion regarding a maple tree to the west that has a lot of dead limbs and most likely belongs to the neighboring address. Mr. DeRoss asked that the maple tree be looked at.
197 Kiser Dr. –Plant 3 tree by City	This is a request to plant 3 trees that have been removed by the City (ash). The applicant requested a Green Mountain Sugar Maple and 2 Greenspire Linden trees. Mr. Asher is to check utilities, spacing and site distance.
115 E. Walnut St. – Remove by City	This tree was found to be “street heavy”. Mr. Montgomery said part of this tree broke out during a windstorm. It is also affected by the street light. The Board approved removal.
310 N. Garber Dr. - Remove by City	This is another ash tree to be placed on the removal list.
320 S. Sixth St. – Remove by City	This is a Sweetgum tree that is not suitable for the curb lawn and the sidewalk is raised in 3 places. It will be placed on the removal list.
918 N. Westedge Dr.	This tree was damaged and removed by the construction of a water line on Westedge. Mr. Asher said spacing might be a problem due to the trees already in the yard. He will take a closer look for the spring planting.
328 S. Second St.	There appears to be a large split in this tree. The Board agreed to removal. Mrs. Pittenger thought the tree to the north bears looking at. Mr. Asher will take a closer look at the other tree.
231-223 W. Main St.	This tree is totally dead and will be removed.
Near 855 N. Third St.	This is a smaller dead tree that will be removed.
207 N. Garber Dr.	There are two ash trees at this address and will be placed on the removal list.
Old Business CR25A- recommended trees for planting.	This project needs some guidance from the City Engineer which there is no one in this position at the moment. Hopefully by the October meeting, the Board will have more information on the location of the sidewalk/bike path. Mr. Asher thought trees are to be planted next fall on this project.
Favorite Tree Story	There were 3 entries and they were all nice stories. They

Miscellaneous
ODNR Summer
Conclave report

will be shared with the media and a booklet will be made for others to read. The Board would like to recognize the three with a certificate presented at an upcoming City Council meeting.

Mr. DeRoss attended the Summer Conclave on August 21 in Montgomery, Oh. Some items to share included: 1) there is a trend to plant smaller trees. Typically the smaller trees grow faster and surpass the larger variety trees. 2) It is best to tag the trees that you order for planting, so that you are assured to get the trees that you wanted, 3) a question to ask when ordering trees, who has approval on any substitutions that might be made if a particular tree is not available. 4) safe-sight triangles are being used more so that there are no sight problems for bicycles and autos. Mr. Asher said 25' back from an intersection has always been used, 5) new tree options: New trees being planted bare-root rather than balled. Mr. Asher said the City used to do that. There has to be good planting strategy so that the roots don't dry out. Mr. DeRoss stated they claimed an 89% survival rate with this method. Mr. Montgomery said when he planted, they would clean off the ball to make them basically bare-root. There are more feeder roots that way. The trees are less expensive, and 6) Ms. Van Buren requested if we come across a stand of dying maple trees, she would like photos sent with location. These reports are being compiled for OSU.

EAB Management

The EAB Management Plan says the Board is to supply an annual report to Council. A report should be prepared and presented to City Council. Mr. Montgomery said he counted approximately 180 remaining ash trees last winter. He categorized them as dead/dying/okay for now. Mr. DeRoss asked for a report at the next meeting. It will then be forwarded to City Council. Mr. DeRoss' concern is our responsibility/liability. Mr. Montgomery said the ones without leaves are probably least dangerous due to lack of leaves. Mr. Asher said a very hazardous ash tree was removed today on W. Main Street. Mr. Blake also asked the average cost of removing an ash tree and that would be useful in the report to give to Council. Mr. Asher said a ball-park figure would be \$500-\$1,000 depending on size. To replace the tree would be \$250.00.

Broadway Blvd.
trees-Electric lines

Mr. Montgomery brought up the problem of the Locust trees on the north side of W. Broadway from First Street, west to Fourth Street. Those 7-8 trees are getting in the electric line and need to be removed. Replacement trees could be some flowering trees. Another section is on the west side of S. First Street from Main to Broadway. They are also involving the electric lines. Mr. Asher said this could be on the next agenda for October. The electric lines coming out of the substation on N. First are the ones affected.

**Next Meeting
Date &
Adjournment**

The next meeting is October 8, 2014. There being no further business, Mrs. Pittenger **moved to adjourn the meeting.** Mr. Blake seconded the motion. Mr. DeRoss declared the meeting adjourned at 6:23 pm.

APPROVED _____
Tom DeRoss, Board Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Marilyn Fennell, Board Secretary