

Urban Tree Commission

Meeting Minutes

Friday, March 17, 2017, 7:45 a.m.

City Hall Room 205

Present: Jess Barton, Barbara Darnell, Julia Malakie, Barbara Smiley, Marc Welch, Beth Wilkinson.

Absent: Bob DeRubeis, Francesca Piper Koss, Amy Sangiolo.

Approval of minutes

The minutes of the February, 2017 meeting were approved by voice vote.

Forestry Department Update

- There has been lots of snow related work from the past few storms.
- No new budget information to report yet.
- The 2018 Capital Improvement Plan calls for a new bucket truck. The current bucket truck is okay but may have issues sooner or later.
- Planting:
 - Will plant about 200-220 trees this spring.
 - Might switch to planting program where the homeowner is responsible for watering the tree. Might start a pilot program this year. This will allow for more trees to be planted.
 - Backlog of planting requests from around 2002, will go through these at some point to make the list more manageable.
 - Residents can request trees online. This past year there were more planting requests than usual, about 120 vs. 75 or so in past years.
- Two tree removal requests, one for a driveway expansion and one for utility wires issue.

Tree Manual

- Some sections have been completed.
- Maybe change the maintenance data information to instead refer residents to information rather than detail it in the manual. That will cut down a lot of the manual and make it more user friendly.
- One of the goals is to make the tree manual a lot shorter this time around.

Newsletter

- Weather could be a topic for the first issue, covering the effects of drought, the warm winter weather followed by freezing temperatures and snow after the trees had buds. The drought will continue to have impacts past this year, in part because the trees will have burned through their resources last summer.

New Business

- Construction and trees: Marc is continuing to look at the data between new home construction and tree damage to see if there is a correlation between tree damage and construction. It can take 5-10 years for a tree to show damage from construction.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned.