

City of Kent, Shade Tree Commission Meeting Minutes
December 5, 2022
Page 1 of 2

Members Present:

Audrey Kessler
Jim Jenkins
John Belfiore
Rebekkah Berryhill
Jason Knowles

Staff Present:

Brad McKay, Facilities Mgr. /Arborist
Rebecca Swauger, Account Clerk

I. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 5:05 pm by Audrey Kessler

II. Roll Call

All members present, as well as staff.

III. Approval of Minutes

Jason Knowles made a motion to approve previous minutes, second motion made by Jim Jenkins.

IV. Staff Report

Mr. McKay stated that Bowers Lawncare, who was hired to plant trees, was wrapping up with the Fall planting, they had about a half dozen trees left to plant. He said that with this being the first time using Bowers for planting, they are working out well.

Mr. Knowles asked Mr. McKay if he was periodically checking on the trees. Mr. McKay stated that he has and will need to go back and check again soon.

Mr. McKay also stated that Davey continues to work through removals, currently they are working in the Southeast section of town. Harris Street removals were completed and paid for through a project through Kents Engineering Department. Other removals included Cherry trees on Needham Avenue that had contracted Black Knot. Central Maintenance is currently training two people for the Bucket truck so that we can spread out some of the work done in house. Also, the goal is to continue Pruning, everyday if possible.

V. Old Business

Mr. McKay updated on Leaf Collection and said that crews are ahead of schedule, he said that he was out earlier in the day and that there are very few piles out there.

VI. New Business

Mr. McKay said that the group should start discussing a tree giveaway at the first meeting of 2023. Mr. McKay asked Ms. Berryhill if they do a giveaway at Arbor Day at KSU, Ms. Berryhill responded

that they only plant, they do not have a tree give away.

Mr. Knowles said that he believes it makes more sense to have some type of a certificate that the resident accepts a tree, then the tree could be delivered and the resident educated. We could possibly schedule this at the Farmers Market.

Mr. Jenkins asked what size tree they had in mind.

Mr. McKay said bigger trees would be better.

Mr. Knowles said perhaps residents could register to get a tree.

Mr. McKay will work on coming up with a generic application.

The group also discussed working on the Sunrise Drive program for removals, it was suggested that if there are 15 trees, that all be removed instead of doing 3-4 tree segments.

Mr. McKay asked about tree diapers, Mr. Jenkins said that they have installed these in Cleveland.

Mr. Knowles said that he has been trying one at home, they can be covered with mulch (not required) and the tree does not need watered. He also said that he is more willing to use the tree diapers on his jobs now since he has tied them at home.

Mr. McKay said that he only uses gator bags when the tree is stressed.

Mr. Knowles offered to call and talk to a guy he knows that offers discounts to cities, he will send the information to Mr. McKay.

Mr. McKay suggested that they give tree diapers a try in the median near Bob Evans, and just cover them with gravel.

Mr. McKay discussed the removal of tree grates throughout town, they are being replaced with Pavers in some areas, however, he is looking to hire a company that does rubber. Also, possibly experimenting in house with the bagged rubber and solvent.

The group agreed to meet again on Monday, February 6, 2023, at 5:00pm.

VI. Adjournment

Hearing no further business, Ms. Kessler made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:00 pm.

