

City of Kent, Shade Tree Commission Meeting Minutes
August 7, 2023
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Members Present:

Jim Jenkins
John Belfiore
Jason Knowles

Staff Present:

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

Guest Present:

Joe Moeglin, ODNR

I. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 5:05 pm.

II. Roll Call

Jim Jenkins, John Belfiore and Jason Knowles were present as well as guest, Joe Moeglin. Staff was also present.

III. Approval of Minutes

Minutes were not available from the last meeting.

IV. Staff Report

Mr. McKay updated that the trees from Davis Tree Farm have been planted on Harris Street and Riverbend. The Harris Street project began approximately 2 years ago. The trees are being watered a lot, as well as the downtown area. We are still working on removals in the area of Prospect, Chestnut, etc., with another list ready to go once they are finished.

Mr. Knowles asked about a “rough looking” Sugar Maple on Prospect that was not marked. Mr. McKay said that he only marked one side of the road so far.

Mr. McKay said that the Roosevelt Street, Elno Avenue areas will be next. He also told us that 2 residents have called regarding ribbons around the trees in that area.

Mr. Knowles informed the group that the ribbon is a marking to indicate a Bat Habitat, these areas are marked by a contractor for Dominion.

Mr. McKay also said that we continue to work on pruning, the next target area will be the Cherry Trees on Columbus Street.

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.

