

Minutes of the Tree Advisory Board

Wednesday November 7, 2018

6:30 pm

City Hall

Prepared by Bill Mehls

(Please contact him with corrections and/or additions.)

Members: (x indicates attended)

Stephanie Crimm	x	Bill Mehls	x	Dave Poteet	x
Judi Cermak	x	Roger Morse	-	Berna Ticonchuk	-
John Goodwin	x	Laura Ouimette	x		

Also in attendance: Ellen Polimeni, Mayor

Tree Pruner proposal: Bill proposed requesting the City add a part-time, seasonal tree pruner, or two, to the 2019 budget in order to get back into a regular pruning/trimming schedule after the budget cuts of recent years have eliminated staff and postponed trimming. After discussion the following motion was approved by the citizen members present: "The TAB requests that the City Council add \$20,000 to the 2019 City budget for 1-2 part-time people to aide in tree maintenance- pruning, trimming, lifting."

Bill will present the proposal at tomorrow night's Finance Committee budget planning meeting at Wood Library. Judi will try to attend as well.

The letter sent to Council is attached below.

150 Granger Street: The resident would like their street tree cut down because it is claimed that the tree is causing multiple problems in the house and to the resident's health. She has been invited to attend a TAB meeting and may attend in December.

Davidson Street Tree: The City street tree may be causing a sewer line problem. The City will camera it to investigate.

Heritage Trees: Dave will send the finished form to John for posting on the City website.

News and Notes:

Hybrid Oaks: Nina Bassuk has hybridized an oak to use as a street tree and is offering them to cities to plant as an experiment. We are on the list to receive five that would be planted in different places around the city and monitored to see if they succeed.

Membership: Dave feels the TAB should have more members. Let Ellen know of anyone you think would be interested.

Arbor Day 2019: The Canandaigua Botanical Society has invited the TAB to give a presentation at their annual dinner that evening, Friday April 26. Save the date and be thinking of topics.

Statue Landscaping: Judi's meeting with Peter Jemison was postponed. She plans to meet with Stephanie to talk through the project.

Lantern Fly: Not here yet but may come to this area via Christmas trees imported from Pennsylvania. They affect grape vines especially.

Plaque: Melissa's plaque has been mounted in concrete and awaits installation.

Statistics: Laura's Stats- 2018 Falling Tree deaths= 127; Struck by Lightning= 0; Falling out of bed= 509; Pedestrian= 4257; Texting while driving= 5099; Lawnmowers= 58

**Our next meeting is scheduled for
Wednesday December 5th, 2018 at 6:00 pm at City Hall
(Please note the earlier time)**

City of Canandaigua
Tree Advisory Board

November 8, 2018

To: City of Canandaigua City Council

Re: 2019 Budget Proposal

The City of Canandaigua recognizes the many benefits of having and maintaining an urban forest. The National Arbor Day Foundation has highlighted those efforts by designating Canandaigua as a “Tree City, USA” for over twenty-five years.

With more than 5,800 street trees and park trees, the Public Works Department is tasked with maintaining our urban forest. That includes removing dead and diseased trees, planting new trees, trimming and pruning our trees. This is a year-round job.

Unfortunately this department is understaffed and has not been able to do the trimming and pruning that is necessary to maintain the health of our trees and the safety of our citizens. There is currently a large number of tree maintenance orders that cannot be accomplished because the staff is stretched so thin.

With that in mind, the Tree Advisory Board requests that \$20,000 be added to next year’s City budget to pay for one or two additional part-time Public Works/Parks workers whose only assignment will be to trim and prune the City’s urban forest.

For example, this might be one 32 week employee or two 14 week employees.

They would not be able to cover the whole City in this amount of time but they would be able to respond quickly to requests from residents and begin systematically trimming and pruning our City trees for best growth and safety.

The City Arborist, Stephanie Crimm, would train these new workers.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

The citizen members of the Tree Advisory Board:

Judi Cermak, Bill Mehls, Laura Ouimette, Dave Poteet