

City of Port Jervis

Shade Tree Commission Meeting Minutes

Thursday June 07, 2012

Commission Members Present: Charlene Lehn, Danny VanKleek, Roman Fedorka.

Absent: Donna Taylor

At Large Members: Tim Gottlieb, Patricia Livingston, Kathy Shortell

This was the first meeting of the newly appointed commission so there was not an agenda that was followed. The events of the meeting will be listed in general format.

Roman Fedorka expressed his interest as being the chairman, there were no objections.

There was a general discussion on Local Law #1 of 2011, Chapter 153 Shade Tree Commission, what the responsibilities of the commissions are, and what we need to do to adhere to it.

After reviewing, the members acknowledged their first priority is to establish an official comprehensive City Tree Plan. Mr. Gottlieb offered some suggestions of other plans that we could review from other municipalities that we could use as a guideline to get ourselves started.

Items of discussion for resources that may be available to us were discussed at great length.

1. Does the County of Orange or the State of New York Shade Tree Commission have a plan or web page available for us to use as a guideline?
2. Does the aerial map that was done on the city back in the early 1990's also show the tree inventory in the city?

Future Goals:

1. Establishing a working relationship with the Arbor Day Ceremony committee and the Historical Society.
2. Assisting with the landscape design on the proposed White Water Park.
3. Inspiring a Scout to prepare a Tree Survey by ward.
4. Making a request to the Orange County Sheriff's Department to use Prisoners to clean up various Park Sites.
5. Creating a plan for future Tree Plantings, for example: The Bike Path on Bridge Hill.
6. To encourage business owners in the major intersections throughout the city to groom the areas around the telephone poles, planter boxes, and outside sidewalk areas.
7. Propose adopt an area throughout the city. Perhaps incorporate a voting competition held by the commission for incentives.
8. Contact a representative from O & R about a better type of tree trimming verses the "C" or "V" cut that is currently being done around the wires.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday July 10, @ 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Fedorka also stated that he had two trees to be planted that were donated. He also said where he wanted them planted. Since that meeting Mr. Fedorka has acknowledge that there are now 4 trees to be planted. I spoke to the Mayor and Mr. Lopez about the trees, and what steps needed to be taken.

1. The trees will be a donation to the commission, we should also advertise for other donors so we can plan one planting plan.
2. The commission should then prepare a written request to the Mayor requesting permission to plant the trees, how many, and where. The commission needs to decide as a

whole what type of trees, and where they are being planted in order to comply with the bylaws. The Mayor will then confer and submit the request to the DPW Director for his input and assistance, on the type of trees being donated and where they are being placed.

3. I spoke with Mr. Lopez since our meeting about the aerial mapping system. It does show the trees, but only the one that existed at the time of the photographing. He suggested Google Map, that they are more updated, better photography.
4. Also, I spoke with Ms. Hendrickson from the CDA office, she has available all of the previous Shade Tree Commission meetings and information. She is willing to meet with the committee to share what she has on hand that has already been established. She would be a great resource to start with.

Other items of discussion were contacting an Arborist for assistance and information, or perhaps a member from the National Park Service.