



ALTOONA SHADE TREE COMMISSION
Minutes of August 16, 2017

In attendance: Ted Newkirk, *Chairman*; Jeff Arpino, Chris Harpster, Paula Over, Nancy Fellabaum - *Shade Tree Commission*, Lee Slusser-*Director*, Marilyn Morgan, *staff*

Ted Newkirk, Chairperson, called the meeting to order.

1. The July 19, 2017 minutes were reviewed and approved; vote by Jeff Arpino, seconded by Chris Harpster. Motion passed.
2. Public Comment – There were no public comments at the meeting.
3. Mr. Newkirk introduced the Tree Request for 301-11 E Walton Ave – Earthtech Inc./Martin Oil Co. Mr. Slusser told the committee that this project is a land development request. Martin Oil Co., is going to put in a gas station at this address. They will need to remove existing trees and will need the Shade Tree Commissions approval. Land development does state that anytime trees are 12in in diameter or greater they must be replaced with new trees. Ms. Nancy Fellabaum noted that on the blue prints they are replacing 7 trees. Mr. Newkirk asked for a motion to approve the land development project. Motion was made by Nancy Fellabaum, seconded by Paula Over. Motion passed unanimously.
4. Tree Request for 1417 11th Avenue – Kerr’s Creations is opening a Flower Shop in this location. They are requesting the Shade Tree Commission permission for the removal of a Red Maple tree and replacing with a Lilac Tree. Lilac Trees grow to about 8ft. The arborists have looked at this and given their ok. Motion was made by Chris Harpster and seconded by Paula Over. Motion passed unanimously.
5. Neighborhoods with potential tree problems. The arborists will canvas areas that the commission deems to be a problem area. Mr. Slusser asked the committee for their suggestions. The commission decided to wait until next month to bring their suggestions back to the meeting. Mr. Newkirk asked that the commission think about a program for the future would be to plant trees on 17th Street corridor. Mr. Slusser will check with the arborists for their input.
6. Mr. Slusser told the committee that Arborists: William Elmendorf and Alan Sam who were present at the last meeting have been brought on board to help out where they can. They will look at situations as they come up and send us a written report. They will only attend meetings that require them to do so, like when we are talking policy. They are currently working on updating the Shade Tree City Ordinance which is desperately in need of updating. They will get back to us with recommendations. At the last meeting the commission gave the arborists permission to remove trees on 7th and 8th Streets as they saw fit. On Friday August 5th, our arborist Bill Elmendorf and the arborists from Penelec along with Mr. Slusser walked 7th and 8th Streets and decided which trees to remove. All the trees are too large and they all need to be cut down. Penelec will only remove those that are interfering with their lines. They then went to Tuckahoe Park and looked at one tree that is slated for removal. Mr. Elmendorf wants to come back with a bucket truck and look down in the cavity of the tree, to determine if just trimming the tree would be sufficient or if it is going to need removed. He will get back to the commission with his recommendation.

Adjournment – Motion made by Jeff Arpino, seconded by Nancy Fellabaum. Motion passed.

Shade Tree Commission