

9/26/2018
MEETING MINUTES
7:30pm Village Hall

Present: Charles Day (CD), Kory Riesterer (KR), Jennifer Zwarich (JZ), Tony Bardes (TB)

Summary:

TAB convened at 7:33pm.

7/25/18 meeting minutes approved; TB abstained.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Tree cutting application Review & Recommendation
 - a. Laura Kaufmann, 29 Pine Street, application for removal of a Norway Maple street tree on village parcel north of property
 - i) Summary of removal request & applicant comments: Applicant reviewed and summarized for TAB members her opinion on state of tree's health, expressing concern for safety and her property along with concern for smaller Pin Oak being "crowded out" by Maple's size, causing it to also lean rather than grow upright, causing applicant further concern for long term well being of property, cars, wires, etc. JZ summarized background on Norway Maple: village had removed a dangerous leader in tree last year as per arborist recommendation; tree was inspected is currently in good health but will likely undergo a gradual state of decline/decay since leader removal. The tree was judged by pro to be structurally sound and for this reason JZ reminded the applicant that the tree is no longer on the village's priority pruning list. Kaufman expressed appreciation for village removal of diseased leader in tree but reiterated her continued concerns for safety. Her application offered to pay for removal of tree; JZ explained cost might amount to as much as \$1200-2000. Additional cost for stump grinding.
 - ii) Questions from Board Members: TB asked if funds would be escrowed? JZ explained a donation is made to village. Then the village contracts out the work on village property.
 - iii) Public Comments: Maria Ricapito, who lives on corner near tree, expressed concern for changing character of neighborhood area around Parrot and Pine with number of large trees taken down recently; she also wondered why village was not paying to remove tree in question if dangerous? JZ responded that tree was examined by a professional after leader removal and remainder judged to be structurally sound so the public interest in the tree has been maintained. JZ also gave some background history on Parrot street and why several other trees that had declined to such a state that they were deemed hazards had been removed, reiterating that TAB never cuts unless absolutely necessary and that where trees come down the areas are earmarked for future planting as money becomes available. It is a goal to replace trees in kind so that no areas of the village lose canopy over the long term.

- iv) Board discussion led by “Criteria for judgment of requests for removal or major pruning of a public tree”. TAB went through all criteria and all agreed that yes, the tree was a candidate for removal and replacement. However, applicant objected to required tree replacement fee of \$500 above costs she is willing to pay for takedown, expressing that she felt this section of TAB’s bylaws unfair. JZ explained rationale for including replacement fee in village application as it is TAB’s job to ensure the canopy of the village increases and does not decrease. If a person petitions for removal for their own reasons it is in the public interest for the village to include a replacement tree in the process; TB broached idea of waiving fee this time; KR expressed concerns about creating precedent if fee waived; CD reiterated that tree was not perceived by village/TAB to be an imminent danger to public health in response to further comments by applicant. Applicant considers \$500 replacement fee a “hardship” and respectfully recommended TAB review its bylaws. JZ respectfully disagreed and felt the replacement fee was necessary to protect the public interest. TAB decided to take a provisional vote on the Tree Cutting Criteria. Board voted 4-0 that Criteria was fulfilled for approval of takedown pending applicant agree to replacement fee and removal costs. JZ stated that she would attempt to secure the lowest possible price by bundling the removal with additional village tree work already contracted out for the end of October. All agreed she would communicate with the applicant and get approval or disapproval the following week.
- v)
- 2. Miscellaneous updates
 - a) Pruning updates:
 - i) HWY dept stump removal work: 32 stumps ground in 1 week!!! Buggy rented a grinder and oversaw removal. Huge thanks from TAB to HWY dept!
 - ii) Pruning sweep is now underway in village; summarized estimates.
 - iii) TAB received several concerned emails from 5 Market Street (Blauhaus) re: pruning of small locust. JZ called and spoke by phone to reassure property owner that tree will be pruned with next bundle of pruning work but will take some time. Owner was more than dissatisfied with this. Mayor is now in correspondence with owner.
 - b) Main Street beautification project:
 - i) Additional donated tree pit guards update: 2 depot square and 126 Main St. and village hall will all see new plastic tree guards! Reflectors will be placed up high to prevent cars backing into/allow cameras to see. JZ to hang tree pit price info in village hall office for folks to see. Main street Chamber to sponsor a pit – Eliza Starbuck wants to hold a contest in spring for best tree pit and award wood plaque for winners.
 - ii) Garden Club updates: CD still planning to reach out to PGC with details; KR reached out but has not heard back from Highlands Garden Club.
- 3. Discussion of development of a tree service procurement policy

a) goal to group work and solicit competitive estimates in way that does not waste valuable time of tree professionals and makes bidding more transparent, fair and competitive. JZ would like to reopen discussion but table till October meeting. TB: wonders if perhaps a day rate for # of days annually would give estimate...

4. Tree pit maintenance in business district brainstorming session: discussion tabled to allow further discussion with chamber first. "volunteer brigade" of sorts needed!
5. Fall Planting Planning & ideas for future projects: tabled

NEW BUSINESS

6. Agenda items for next meeting 10/24: procurement policy clause; tabled items above; Kaufman application/straw vote
7. Correspondence: 5 Market Street email & Kaufman application
8. Public comment: No additional comment following review of application

Meeting adjourned 8:50pm.