

Lancaster City Shade Tree Commission  
MINUTES – July 17, 2018  
City Hall, Commission Room - 120 N. Duke St.

Present: Christina Leslie, Joseph Morales, Carl Pike, Mimi Shapiro, Robert Shenk, Douglas Smith, Ashley Spotts

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM.

The minutes of the April 17, 2018 meeting were approved. The May 15 and June 19 meetings were cancelled because of lack of agenda items.

Mr. Joseph Morales was welcomed as a new member of the Commission.

Old Business - none

New Business:

ITEM	ADDRESS	REQUEST	ACTION
6-18	1530 Fruitville Pike	Remove 1 box-elder maple and clear brush. Line of sight problem for trucks exiting lot, branches on wires.	Approved. Replacement tree should be a large canopy tree. Arborist will discuss location (along Fruitville Pike near Dillerville Rd.) and species with owner.
7-18	330 Coral St.	Remove 1 catalpa from side yard.	Denied. Arborist will advise owner on pruning branches that are into houses.

Discussion Items:

1. Arborist's Report

- The Arborist is continuing to treat selected ash trees in parks and on streets. All those receiving insecticide appear healthy. Infested ash trees at the Conestoga water plant woods will be left alone. WGAL TV had a recent news segment on identifying ash trees and appropriate action by homeowners.

- Several local arborist firms donated services valued at many thousands of dollars for the Arbor Day of Service. Several trees were removed and others were pruned at Longs Park. Six new trees were planted.

- The bids for the new city tree contract have been received, but a contract has not yet been awarded. Bids were sought for 2.5 and 1.5 inch caliper trees of 72 species.

- Three trees at Shreiner-Concord Cemetery were planted with Hartman Fund money; one has died and will be replaced (cause unknown – not spotted lantern fly).

- The current extreme heat and drought has greatly stressed newly planted trees, with many owners not filling watering bags. In some cases recent sidewalk work has damaged roots, adding to the problem. A strong letter from the Lancaster City Alliance to owners of new trees in the DID has led to some improvement in filling watering bags, but some trees had already died from lack of water. The owners should be held responsible.

- A new type of tree watering device has been placed at 15 new street trees around Lancaster Cemetery. Their effectiveness in holding rainwater is in question.

2. Senior Planner's Report

- Arbor Day (April 27) was a successful event, in spite of the rain. The official ceremony was held at King Elementary School, with students, the mayor, and city council members participating. Interior landscape trees (66) were planted at Hillrise apartments, with residents and staff participating. Other tree plantings were: King Elementary School, 20 trees (both street and interior trees); San Juan Bautista Church, 6 street trees; surrounding area, 8 street trees. Substantial support for the project has been received from the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant. Lancaster Tree Tenders and the Lancaster County Conservancy are also involved in the planning and implementation. A lunch for volunteers was kindly provided by San Juan Bautista Church.

- About 50 trees will be planted at the conclusion of the work on N. Charlotte St. (probably Spring 2019).

- Bids have been requested for trees (about 70-80), street lights, and other improvements on W. King St. and Manor St. Owners of sites that have been identified for street trees can decide to opt out. Outreach is underway.

- Bids are being sought for the multi-municipality riparian tree planting grant along the Conestoga River, involving about 10 acres.

- Education about trees has been presented to elementary school students through grant funding: 90 3rd graders at Wickersham Elementary School, 2 lessons totaling 3 hours, including planting 1 street tree; 90 5th graders at King Elementary School, 2 lessons totaling 6 hours, including participation in the Arbor Day ceremony and planting.

- It is important that the city pay more attention to its few remaining wooded tracts, as part of Green Infrastructure plans for storm water management. Many trees may be lost when Sunnyside is developed and other smaller projects. Hands Woods is an important tract to protect, since it is used for education and contains a stream that flows into the Conestoga. Zoning ordinance changes may be needed to protect wooded tracts.

### 3. Comments from Commission members

- The white oak planted at King Elementary School survived, but the main leader is dead. The tree will be removed. The plaque in honor of Mr. Nelson Polite, Sr. will be placed at another new tree on the Rockland St. side of the school.

- Lancaster Tree Tenders, Lancaster City Alliance, Lancaster County Conservancy, and the city are all concerned about owners not watering new trees and other maintenance issues. The groups will meet in the upcoming months to develop a strategy, to be implemented in 2019, for watering. Research is underway on how other cities in Pennsylvania and elsewhere deal with this problem – through contracted services, city personnel, volunteers, etc.

- A recent pilot monitoring project of 35 trees planted since 2015 in Northeast Lancaster revealed that nearly all have survived and are in very good or excellent condition. The project will help guide such volunteer monitoring efforts in the future. We do not know how well the trees were watered by the owners. Failure to properly mulch the trees was a common problem identified. Some trees need pruning now to avoid future problems.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Next meeting, Tuesday, August 21, 2018, 7:30 PM