

Lancaster City Shade Tree Commission  
 MINUTES – May 17, 2016  
 City Hall, Commission Room - 120 N. Duke St.

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

The minutes of the April 19, 2016 meeting were approved.

Old Business:

ITEM	ADDRESS	REQUEST	ACTION
42-15	321 W. Chestnut St.	Remove sycamore for construction of new accessible entrance	No action. No new information has been received from applicant.

New Business:

ITEM	ADDRESS	REQUEST	ACTION
20-16	133 E. Vine St.	Remove 3 red oaks because they are old and infested with ants	Approved removal of easternmost tree. Arborist will advise on replacement species appropriate for site (overhead power lines, but a Princeton Sentry ginkgo was planted here recently). Other two trees to remain and to be pruned (deadwood and other work as directed by Arborist). Repair sidewalk as directed. Tree wells to be enlarged to minimum 25 sq. ft.
21-16	14 S. Lime St.	Remove red oak because of unsafe sidewalk condition	Denied. Repair sidewalk as directed. Tree well to be enlarged to minimum 25 sq. ft.

Discussion Items:

1. Arborist report. The Arbor Day planting at Lafayette School went well, although the outdoor activities had to be limited because of rain. A Swamp White Oak was planted near the playground.
2. Update on Lancaster Tree Tenders. On May 7, over 30 volunteers helped plant 13 trees in the southwest area around Laurel, St. Joseph, Poplar, and Prospect Sts. and Fairview Ave. The project was sponsored by Two Dudes Painting Co., which provided funding to supplement Tree Vitalize and Hartman Funds. Six more trees will be planted by the city arborist crew in the northeast area where Lancaster Tree Tenders worked last year. At the Open Streets event on May 15, 50 redbud seedlings (courtesy of Octoraro Nursery) were given away (to residents of the city and elsewhere). There was great interest, so it would be useful to get more seedlings for future years.
3. Update on street ash tree removal. Davey Trees was the successful bidder and will begin removing 35 trees in the next few weeks; they will also do stump grinding. Plans and budgets for the replacements will be presented at an upcoming meeting.

4. Shade Tree Commission annual report. Members were asked to provide suggestions for topics for the 2015 report and for ways to enhance the appeal of the report, such as with photos.

5. Ongoing concerns about trees. Substantial progress has been made in tracking tree removals and replantings. Tree Tenders and other volunteers could help in reaching out to owners about required replantings in the context of the new ordinance, to help deal with the problem of empty tree wells (estimated about 200). Plans to incentivize and seek grants for the planting of trees on private property (front and back yards) are being developed, in conjunction with Lancaster Tree Tenders/Lancaster County Conservancy. The tree inventory is now useable by city staff in the field, and summer interns are working on updating the inventory and identifying more tree planting sites. The suitability and cost of new types of tree grates (ADA-compliant) will be explored, for areas with limited planting space such as Manor St. The Streetscape Guidelines are now applied to major corridors throughout the city (not just downtown), by action of City Council to revise the ordinance.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Next meeting June 21, 2016, 7:30 PM