

City of Geneva Shade Tree Committee Minutes
Friday, December 20, 2019 12:00pm
Lakefront Visitor Center

Present: Jim Norwalk, Jay Freer, Jim Engel, Bill Garman, Sarah Meyer, Charlie Rouse, Mark Perry, John Pruett

Absent: Angelina Marino, Jim Gregoire, Dahlia Elizabeth Wist.

Welcome (Chairperson Jim Norwalk):

- Jim indicated that without a quorum last meeting we did not approve minutes. A motion to approve minutes for both October and for November was seconded and passed.
- John Pruett has been assigned Secretarial duties until replaced or substituted.
- As a new Councilor he is no longer able to vote in this Committee and has requested the Mayor-elect to confirm the assignment. John would replace Angelina as the Committee's liaison to City Council.

Tree Nursery:

- Jim Engel described the 'Nursery Project' dynamics as previously provided with further detail. In short, the plan calls for approximately \$1000 of funds from Mark Perry's budget to produce approximately 100 trees per year for purpose of City plantings. Most planting would be on City property on Doran Avenue including potential access to the greenhouse if a new heater can be obtained. With only a three-year gestation period, this represents a significant future cost savings to the City and also provides creativity in selection.
- Jim Norwalk asked for a vote, which was seconded and unanimously passed, with gratitude to Jim Engle for his significant contribution.

Tree Problem:

- Oak trees in the west side of Seneca Street had aphids and honeydew. Yellow jackets are feeding on the honeydew. Acorns are abundant and businesses are complaining.
- It was officially decided to not replace the offending trees that are otherwise quite desirable, but that similar trees would not be utilized further up the street.
- Opinion is that storeowners should sweep acorns with responsibility similar to snow removal. The bees are part of nature and not readily controllable without a central nest to attack, and are otherwise temporarily present.
- No Action will be taken.

2020 Tree List:

- Jim Norwalk referenced current inventory records to omit from consideration trees that are either overstocked in the City or subject to disease, and requested three selections for each of our three sizes of trees for planting next year. The selection by group consensus are as follows:
 - SMALL: Yoshino Cherry – Thornless Cockspur – Hawthorn – Kousa Dogwood
 - MEDIUM: Yellowwood – American Hornbeam – Smoketree – Red Bud – American Hophornbeam
 - LARGE: White Oak – Black Maple – Tulip Poplar
- Upright Selection is Hackberry add columnar cultivar

Business for Next Meeting (Jim Norwalk):

- Review tree selection and list, adding details to the selections regarding specific cultivars. More discussion and perspective from the Committee before finalization.
- Discuss Arbor Day activities.
- There are planting sites along the corner from the west side of Seneca Street in front of Parkers extending in front of Marks Pizza along Main Street that need trees. Mark will still need recommendations.
- Additional items will likely appear on the agenda

Next Meeting:

- Next meeting at the Lakefront Visitors Center on Friday, February 21, 2020 at noon. The room needs to be reserved.
- There will be no meeting in January, resuming in February.

End