

**MINUTES OF THE HANOVER BOROUGH
SHADE TREE COMMISSION MEETING**

January 10, 2022

Chairman Rohrbaugh convened the meeting of the Hanover Borough Shade Tree Commission at 9:00 AM Monday morning, January 10, 2022 in the Hanover Municipal Building, 44 Frederick Street, Hanover, Pennsylvania, as advertised.

Attendance: In attendance were Shade Tree Commission members Jill Rohrbaugh, Joel Weaver and Jane West; Staff Member Secretary Felix; citizen Mr. Richard Colehouse.

Approval of the Minutes: It was moved by Mrs. West, seconded by Mr. Weaver to approve the minutes of November 1, 2021. Motion carried.

Public Comment: Mr. Richard Colehouse, 602 McCosh Street was present to request that three pear (3) trees be removed from the public right of way in front of home, due to excessive mess created from the berries that the trees produce. He also noted that pear trees are now considered an invasive species in Pennsylvania and they should not have been planted.

Chairman Rohrbaugh thanked Mr. Colehouse for his attendance and concerns, and that a decision would be forwarded by mail in the near future.

Proposed PennDOT Tree Removals prior to Broadway Paving – It was moved by Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mrs. West to approve a legal advertisement for public hearings for the following proposed tree removals prior to paving of Broadway by PennDOT:

- 306 Broadway
- 616 Broadway
- 931 Broadway
- 933 Broadway
- 935 Broadway - 2 trees
- 1155 Broadway
- 1157 Broadway
- 1159 Broadway
- 1211 Broadway

The Borough will be reimbursed by PennDOT for the cost of the removals. Motion carried.

859 Broadway: The trees were pruned along Washington Avenue with no permit; a letter will be sent to the property owner notifying of the permitting process.

The following applications were ratified since the last meeting of the Shade Tree Commission:

720 East Walnut Street – Approved for pruning by Atlas Tree Service according to regulations.

Downtown Tree Pruning – Approved for Public Works to elevate trees and trim away from buildings one block out from Center Square.

Pear Trees: There was discussion regarding the recent announcement from the PA Department of Agriculture that the Bradford and Cleveland Pear trees are now considered an invasive species in Pennsylvania, and that sales from nurseries will be gradually phased out. The Borough currently has approximately 275 pear trees in the public rights-of-way. While there is no mandate to remove all pear trees at this time, Chairman Rohrbaugh asked the Shade Tree Commission to develop a policy regarding requests removals of these trees, and further to ask Hanover Borough Council to allocate additional funding at the initiation of the budgeting process for 2023 to begin the process of removing these trees.

After discussion, the Commission agreed that when a property owner submits a permit application for removal of pear trees, that the Commission would agree to the removal and same would be placed on the public works list for completion. If the property owner prefers, they may also hire an insured private contractor to perform the work at their cost.

The following Shade Tree Permit Applications were photographed by staff and checked in the field by Shade Tree Commission members prior to today's meeting:

Chairman Rohrbaugh noted there are currently no tree replacement grants available from the state, other than purchase of bare root trees which have a rough time surviving the winter months along public streets.

112 Fulton Street: Approved for removal of pear tree by Public Works Department, pending public hearing February 7, 2022.

100 Frederick Street: Approved for planting of new replacement tree in 2 – 3 years following removal of the existing tree.

602 McCosh Street: Approved for removal of 3 pear trees by Borough Crew or private contractor pending public hearing February 7, 2022. The Borough will replant 2 replacement trees after removal.


322 McKinley Avenue: Approved for removal of 2 pear trees by Borough Crew or private contractor pending public hearing February 7, 2022. The Borough will replant 2 replacement trees after removal.

230 Highland Avenue: Approved for removal of 2 trees nearing the end of their lifespan by Borough Crew pending public hearing February 7, 2022. The Borough will replant one replacement tree after removal.

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Hanover Borough Shade Tree Commission will be held Monday, February 7, 2022 at 9:00 AM.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:12 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dorothy C. Felix
Borough Secretary