

Lockport Tree Committee Meeting – Tuesday, June 22, 2021

Called to order by Chairperson, Rick Abbott @ 4:35 P.M. via Go To Meeting

Attendance: Rick Abbott, Mike Hoffman, Kevin McDonough, Becky Wilson and Peggy Cooke

Minutes from the 4/12/21 meeting were approved as written.

Old Business/Grants: Rick turned the meeting over to Peggy Cooke so she could give an informational update on the Grant.

1. A priority list of 50 trees has been created and will be bid out by the City to have trees removed by contractors. They will bid on the number of trees they can take out off that list up to the grant amount of \$50,000. The City crew will remove remaining trees off that list to match the grant with \$12,500 in City payroll for the tree crew
 - NYSEG is removing the tops of trees that are around utility wires
 - they are contracting Asplundh to do that work – this is not costing the city any money
 - the contractor that gets the bid to take down trees will also remove those stumps and the property will be cleaned up after the work is done, leaving fire logs stacked for neighbors
 - the city has to match the grant and remove at least 20 trees as well
2. The work to remove the trees is anticipated to be completed by the Fall of 2021
 - the next Common Council meeting is July 7th and hopefully the RFP (Request for Proposals) will be ready to go out to bid so work can begin.
 - We are hoping to be able to apply for the next Grant in the fall (for \$50,000 if it is the same as this year) to be able to plant trees in the spring to replace those lost
3. The Master Grant for State is ready to be signed and Jaime will do that when he returns
4. Peggy requested these minutes and photos from Arbor Day planning ceremonies to be sent to her so she can include them in her Quarterly report which is due the end of June
 - Rick will look for the article in the paper or in their on-line paper and forward to her.
5. Peggy suggested that perhaps we create a post card to be sent out to the home-owners to let them know that a tree on their property is going to be removed because of a recent complaint from a property owner
 - we agreed that it would be a good idea
 - she is going to create a draft and email it to the committee so we can add any suggestions to it, which may make it helpful
 - Becky Wilson offered to address them and mail them when they were ready
6. US Soil and Water applied for a Grant for Lockport to replace ash trees lost
 - the grant was not awarded, but they are going to apply again next year for \$20,000.00
 - Mike Hoffman noted that Lockport's plan for removal and planting was accepted by the Grant but the other cities involved got funding and Lockport did not, so he will try again

New Business:

1. Jenna Hart maintains the Tree Keeper Software program and she is creating an annual report - it will tell how many trees and stumps have been removed, where and how many trees have been re-planted and where, etc. This will keep the Council and community aware of the progress
2. Rick has to change meetings to a Tuesday for a while – he sent out an email regarding this asking members which day would be the best and Tuesdays were decided upon – he is also going to check to see if we can meet at City Hall again

Meeting adjourned at about 5:15 P.M.

Next meeting will be Tuesday July 20, 2021 at 4:30 P.M. –hopefully at City Hall.

Submitted by Becky Wilson