

**Shade Tree Commission
Minutes
April 11, 2018 at 4:00 pm
Athens City Council Chambers**

Meeting Attendees: David Ingram, John Kotowski, Lee Gregg, Peter Kotses, Nancy Walker, Ron Lucas, Ric Sirois, Ann Bonner

1. Presentation by the Law Director on the Ohio Sunshine Laws is delayed until June
2. Title 33: Tree Permit, Right-of-Way Issues, Public Land
There were no Title 33 Issues that came before the Commission today.
3. Title 37: Landscape Ordinance Issues
There were no Title 37 Issues that came before the Commission today.
4. Report by Ron Lucas
 - a. Tomorrow is the Tree City USA awards in Portsmouth, we will receive our 28th award.
 - b. Athens beautification day April 22nd, three tree planting projects: Tulane creek; E. Ste. St. soccer fields; W. Ste. St. Park. Registration for volunteers at the website.
 - c. America in Bloom July 26-28th
 - d. Arbor Day in Athens delayed to Fall to enable involvement of elementary school students.
 - e. Questions were asked by commissioners regarding the plans for the south side of E. Ste. St. Ron has not seen the landscape plans for replacing landscaping and trees removed at the Visitors' Center, or elsewhere along the street. This work is connected to the installation of a sidewalk on the south side of E. Ste. St. This lead to discussion about the City not informing the Shade Tree Commission about its landscape plans and in particular removal of shade trees at the swimming pool construction site and on islands on E. Ste. St.. The commissioners noted that this leaves them in the position of not being able to respond to questions from the public as to why particular trees have been removed. The commissioners noted that it will take 20-30 years to restore the shade lost by these removals.
5. Maintenance of the Tree Canopy
Where are we with the Emerald Ash Borer? We are following our plan that stated we would remove infected trees as they died or otherwise become a hazard. We have now been removing dead trees for several years and have passed the peak in tree removal. Can we get some Arbor Day leaflets to educate citizens on the replacement of trees lost to EAB? Ron noted the challenge on streets like N. Lancaster owing to narrow right-of-way and the high percentage of rentals with owners that are not enthusiastic about have trees planted adjacent to their property.
6. Other

Atilla Horvath informed the Commission that he is organizing volunteers to plant trees on Athens Beatification Day. He was asked to coordinate his efforts with Ron Lucas and was encouraged to continue his efforts.

7. Minutes of the March 14th meeting.
These minutes were recommended for approval by John Kotowski and seconded by Nancy Walker. The Commission unanimously approved the minutes as presented.

Next meeting: May 9, 2018 at 4:00 pm in the Athens City Council Chambers