

**Shade Tree Commission  
Minutes  
October 10, 2019 at 7:00 pm  
Athens City Council Chambers**

Meeting Attendees: David Ingram, Nancy Walker, Emilie Wood, John Kotowski, Jim Dyer, David Sincoff, Lee Gregg, and Peter Kostas.

1. Title 33: Tree Permit, Right-of-Way Issues, Public Land
  - a. Remove a dead tree at 66 Elmwood and do some dead wood pruning of two other trees.
  - b. Planting sites identified near E. State. St. at the top end of Elmwood.
  - c. Dead tree reported at 6 Shannon.
2. Title 37: Landscape Ordinance Issues
  - a. O'Bleness plan for an addition
    - i. The area is not correct on the plan submitted, based on that area, a 113 large shade trees are required for this site. The number of trees required to be planted, over and above the submitted plan, is 41 large shade trees, which is possible. But the tree commission needs the developer to discuss this with them before they can proceed.
3. Ron Lucas report
  - a. Ron Lucas introduced the new Code Director David Riggs.
  - b. Arbor Day in the City is to be November 15<sup>th</sup>, including the dedication of the tree bench on the extension of the bicycle path toward Armitage Rd. and a significant tree planting on W. Union St. between Depot and Smith where the water retention plantings are located.
  - c. Fall tree planting: many tree spots are possible on Elmwood near E. State. St. and some Court St. trees that need to be replaced. 25-30 trees, some of them donate by Atilla Horvath. It was requested that tree guards be provided for the trees on E. State. St. Ron will investigate the possibility of providing tree guards.
  - d. Tree inventory of N. Congress area is to be continued using students from Loraine McCosker's class.
  - e. Tree City USA application is started, this will be our 30<sup>th</sup> year.
  - f. Athens in Bloom report has been received. We increased our score from six to eight out of ten. Thanks to all who helped.
  - g. Question on health of trees on the bicycle path between the connector to the library and where the bicycle path goes under the overpass. Ron will look at these trees.
  - h. The trees planted on the median of Columbus Rd. are doing well and Ron credits Mason Chambers of Five Springs Nursery for the attention he gave those trees during the first two years.
  - i. Missing trees on Don Wood's development on the end of E. State. St. – we have not received a final plan for this development.

- j. Menard's have been given provisional approval for their plan and, until we have a final version of their plan, we cannot be certain how many trees will need to be banked.
  - k. David Riggs was asked to look into both the Don Wood and Menard's developments.
  - l. The Prokos hotel is complete, the hardscape is ready for the trees. The required trees should be planted either this fall or next spring.
4. Other
- a. Raspberry Kennedy, a local citizen, asked a question about the process for the O'Bleness development. The chair (DCI) explained that under Title 37 the developer of a site like this needs to provide a plan that will lead to 40% tree coverage of the lot by the time the trees reach maturity. This was an ambition the City undertook as part of its comprehensive plan Athens 2020 developed about 20 years ago following the advice of the Davy Group that a city like this should have a tree coverage of 40%. At the time the tree coverage was 27%. This was incorporated into Title 37. The chair explained that the development cannot proceed until they receive approval from the Shade Tree Commission.
5. Minutes of the September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019
- a. Motion to approve the minutes from John Kotowski, seconded by David Sincoff. The minutes were approved without objection.
6. Next meeting is November 14, 2019 at 7:00 PM in the Council Chamber