

MEETING MINUTES
Athens Shade Tree Commission
October 13, 2022, 7:00 p.m.
City Council Chambers

MEMBERS PRESENT

Christine Fahl, Chair
Jim Dyer, Member
Roxanne Malé-Brune, Member
Nancy Walker, Member
Ben Ziff, City Council Rep
Katherine Ziff, Alternate member

ALSO PRESENT

David Riggs, Director of Code Enforcement, City of Athens
Tristan Kinnison

1. **A quorum** was established.
2. **Minutes** of the September 8 Shade Tree Commission meeting were approved.
3. **Title 33: Tree Permit, Right of Way Issues, Public Land**
New Commissioner appointments: Vacancies on tree commission coming up owing to expired terms and an unfilled Alternate. Ann Bonner has referred Tristan Kinnison, an arborist, to the Commission. Mr. Kinnison, present for the meeting, was introduced by Roxanne. Roxanne noted that Susan Calhoun may also be interested. Both live just outside the Athens City limits; suggestion was made to amend the municipal code to allow a Commission member to live outside the city limits. Chris noted that other Commission code updates may be in order. The plan suggested is to work on reviewing and updating the Commission code within the year and move more quickly on allowing commissioners to live outside the City limits. The Commission members voted to approve allowing commission members to live outside the City limits, and Council rep Ben Ziff will take this item to Council for approval.

1929 hand-written ordinance and transcript establishing the Athens Shade Tree Commission: Transcript blanks reviewed and filled in by Jim. Hand-written ordinance and transcript will go in the minutes to serve as documentation.
4. **Title 37: Landscape Ordinance Issues**
No Title 37 items for discussion
5. **Title 41: Landscape Plan Review**
No Title 41 items for discussion.
6. **Maintenance of the Tree Canopy**
Discussion of tree located at 124 Morris : Resident of 124 Morris notified the city of the tree. Roxanne visited the site and reported that branches have fallen into the street, the tree has a major crack, and proximity of power lines raises potential safety issues. Also the leader (main trunk) is going to fall on the house if it falls. Other, healthy trees are growing next to this one. Recommendation that City look at the tree and decide whether to take it down.
7. **New Business**
Tree Planting Committee (Roxanne, Chair)
 - East State Street Dog Park: Spots for planting 20 trees have been marked with flags by members of the Peace & Justice Committee of the Athens Catholic Community with direction from APR and the Shade Tree Commission. The trees will be planted in November. Menards

and the City will water the trees. Committee members will serve as “tree guardians” to check and observe the health of the trees and relay any concerns to the City.

- Riparian project: City has cleared the riparian area (behind the Community Center campus by the Hocking River.) and it is ready for trees; planting tentatively scheduled for November 12. Volunteers from the Hocking Conservancy will plant the trees, holes will be pre-dug. The City will provide mulching (4’ diameter, 4” deep), and Greenleaf will water the trees for the first year. The trees, provided by the Hocking Conservancy, will be 1” caliper and will include Pin Oak, Bald Cypress, Swamp White Oak, River Birch, and Sycamore along with an underplanting of Pawpaws. Discussion regarding the location included the thought that we may lose some of the trees should the area flood. Commission members reviewed the plans and site plan and approved the project.
- Neighborhood ROW project: Six homeowners have agreed so far to participate in the Fall 2022 pilot of the program.
- A family in the Athens community wants to plant a large number of trees (23 trees) which would fall within the Celebratory Tree program. Nancy will reach out to the person who contacted her on behalf of the family, to refer her to Director Jordan of APR and to remind her (the family representative) that Council has approved an increase in the cost to \$400 per tree. It was noted that the riparian project area and the West State Street Park are potential locations that could accommodate 23 trees. Nancy will touch base with the family’s representative and report back.

Event Committee (Chris, Chair)

- City Arbor Day Celebration: November 4
- Chris plans to make an annual report to Council in January.
- Discussion of ideas for spring events:
 - Work with the City Environment and Sustainability Commission to do a bio blitz for the city of Athens.
 - A pollinator event emphasizing the importance of Dandelions “Leaving the Lions”
 - Advocating for “No Mow” without violating City Code
 - Advocating for homeowner mowing grass at three inches
 - Pollinator garden program
 - Tree maintenance and care, including vine removal especially grape vines.
 - Should the ODNR grant be approved the Commission will be busy with this work.

8. Old Business

ODNR grant application update: Grant content reviewed; application was submitted by the City on 12 October.

Tree City and Growth Award: Applications update given; due Friday December 2

Fall bus stop tree planting by Arbor Day Committee: October 29

9. Opportunity for citizens to speak on items not covered on the agenda

No citizens attending to speak.

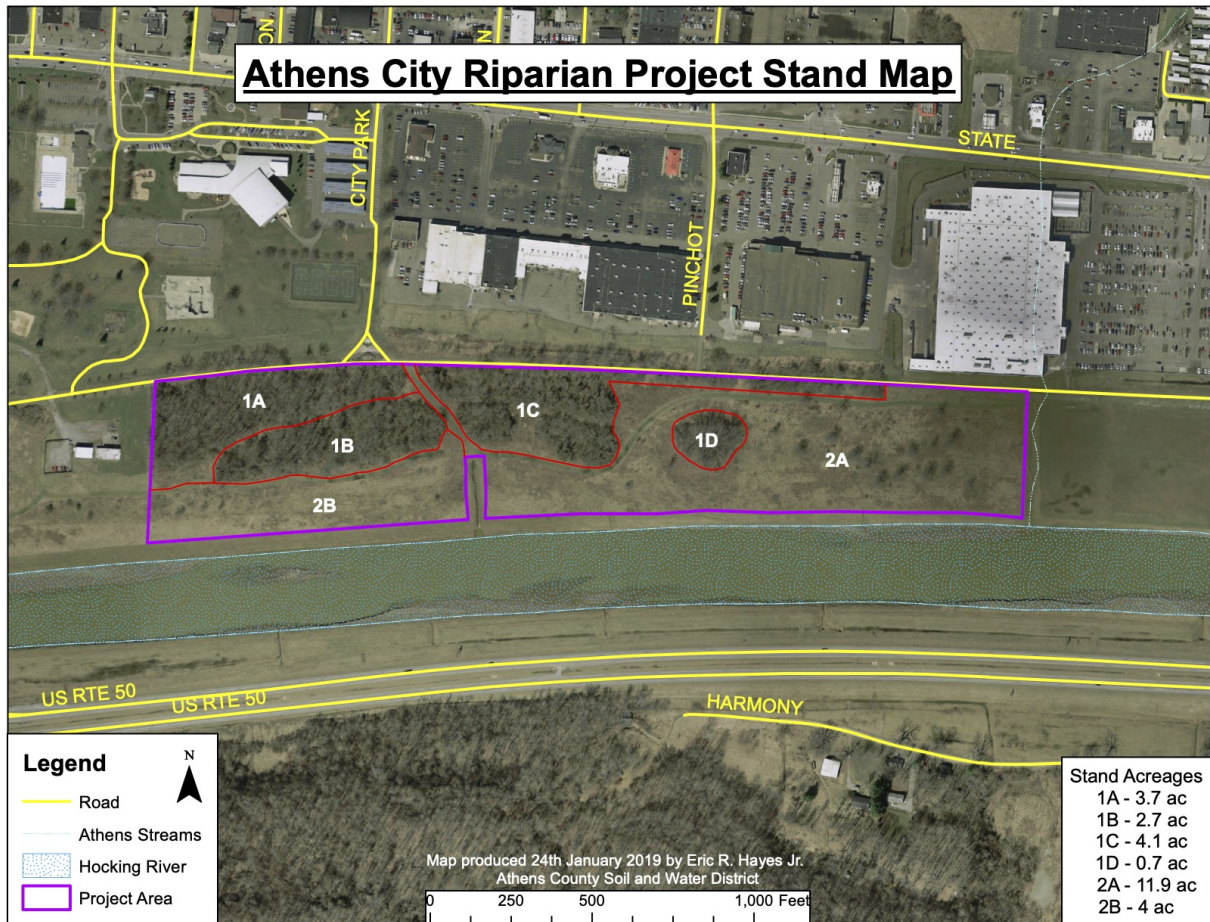
10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned.

Next meeting November 10, 2022.

Minutes prepared by Katherine Ziff

Athens City Riparian Project Stand Map



Ordinance No 5612

An ordinance relating to a shade-tree Commission and to the planting, protecting, regulation and control of shade-trees planted or growing upon the public highways of Athens, Athens County, Ohio.

Section 1. There shall be appointed by the Mayor, with the advice and consent of the Council, a Commission of three citizens, who by reason of special study or experience are experts in the care of trees and who shall serve without compensation. Such Commission shall have exclusive and absolute custody and control of, and power to plant, set out, remove, maintain, protect and care for shade trees on any of the public highways of the City of Athens in co-operation with the Department of Public Service. They shall be appointed for a term of two, three and four years respectively, and, on expiration of any term, the new appointment shall be for a term of four years.

Section 2. Said Commission shall have authority to make such rules and regulations as it deems applicable to the City of Athens, and publish said rules and regulations twice each year.

Section 3. The Council and the Mayor shall act as a board of adjustment and shall have power on application in a specific case when owing to special conditions a literal enforcement of the provisions of this ordinance will result in unnecessary hardship, to so vary the application of such provisions in harmony with the public interest and with the spirit of this ordinance that substantial justice shall be done.

Section 4. Nothing herein provided shall prohibit the proper trimming of trees for reasonable clearance of wires under the supervision and control of the Commission.

Section 5. Every repeated violation by the same person, firm or corporation, of any provision of this ordinance, or the continuation of the violation of any of its provisions on any day or days succeeding the first violation thereof, shall constitute an additional violation of such provisions.

Section 6. Any one violating any of the provisions of this ordinance shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be fined not to exceed Fifty dollars.

Section 7. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after its legal publication.

Passed March 11, 1929.

Attest: CH Harris, Clerk
Approved - Alex M. Mone, Mayor

E. C. Woodward
President of Council

TRANSCRIPT
Ordinance No. 562

An ordinance relating to a Shade-Tree Commission and to the planting, protecting, regulation and control of shade-trees planted or growing upon the public highways of Athens, Athens County, Ohio.

Section 1. There shall be appointed by the mayor with the advice and consent of the Council, a Commission of three citizens, who by reason of special study or experience are experts in the care of trees and who shall serve without compensation. Such Commission shall have exclusive and absolute custody and control of, and power to plant, set out, remove, maintain, protect and care for shade trees on any of the public highways of the City of Athens in co-operation with the superintendent of Public Service. They shall be appointed for a term of two, three and four years respectively, and, on expiration of any term, the new appointment shall be for a term of four years.

Section 2. Such commission shall have authority to make such rules and regulations as it deems applicable to the City of Athens, and publish said rules and regulations twice each year.

Section 3. The Council and the Mayor shall act as a board of adjustment and shall have power on application in a specific case when owing to special conditions a literal enforcement of the provisions of this ordinance will result in unnecessary hardship, to so vary the application of such provisions in harmony with the public interest and with the spirit of this ordinance that substantial justice shall be done.

Section 4. Nothing herein provided shall prohibit the proper trimming of trees for reasonable clearance of wires under the supervision and control of the Commission.

Section 5. Every repeated violation by the same person, farmer, or corporation, of any provision of this ordinance, or the continuation of the violation of any of its provisions on any day or days succeeding the first violation thereof, shall constitute an additional violation of such provisions.

Section 6. Any one violating any provisions of this ordinance shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be fined not to exceed Fifty dollars.

Section 7. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after its legal publication.

Passed March 11, 1929.

attest: CH Harris, clerk
approved - Alex M. Moore, Mayor

E.C. Woodworth
President of Council

(Punctuation and format are from original document.)

