



**AGENDA**  
**ATHENS SHADE TREE COMMISSION**  
**THURSDAY, JULY 10th, 2025 AT 6:00 PM**

Streaming is available at [www.ci.athens.oh.us/video](http://www.ci.athens.oh.us/video)

- **Establish Quorum**
  - **Members present:** Tristan Kinnison, Michael Lincoln, Joanna Sokol, David Riggs.
- **Disposition of Minutes**
  - June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025 meeting. Motion to approve: Michael Lincoln, second: Joanna Sokol. Approved.
- **Title 33: Tree Permit, Right of Way Issues, Public Land**
  - None
- **Title 37: Landscape Ordinance Issues**
  - None
- **Maintenance of the Tree Canopy**
  - None
- **New Business**
  - Meeting was held with city administrators over proposed code changes.
    - Discussed pollinator program, noxious weeds, tweaks to shade tree requirements in anticipation of changing city code and approval processes.
    - The city administration would like to have the changes complete by October before city council elections and potential changes to the council.
    - The discussion involved figuring out how improve the process and the solution seems to involve having the STC involved in initial assessment of plans, trading final approval for first review recommendations.
      - Ideas discussed were to have someone from the city on STC as permanent member or ex officio person. Add to STC bylaws.
      - David Riggs is retiring soon and even with his replacement there will be lack of continuity.
      - STC needs more access to the city approval processes and documents.
      - Disconnect between maintenance of tree canopy and the STC. Multiple departments involved, Street crews and parks folks. It would help to have someone from maintenance on STC.
    - Title 9 issues are not as urgent and could be dealt with later.
    - Proposed code change will need 3 readings: so, we need the first draft in Sept.
- **Old Business**
  - Change in contractor qualifications

- Tristan had hoped to get Andy Stone's opinion about these changes at the meeting but because of other issues in the meeting, it wasn't discussed.
- Committee updates
  - ODNR Grant
  - We have rough agenda, budget. Ann Bonner brought up concerns that the draft is not in keeping with an urban forestry program and felt that we should target the grant to it.
  - Protocol for the city. Street tree inventory, planting inventory and what can be planted. Follow up round of hazard pruning and hazard reductions.
  - Still have \$25,000 (and possibly as much as \$40,000) in budget. Add training in SOP, ISA certification, etc.
    - Two other possibilities if we don't get grant:
      - 1) Pathway for urban wood utilization and using waste wood from pruning.
        - Work with maker space; drop it there instead of landfill. Upskill some of those people? Have a milling workshop, process the logs and then make things for public use. Maker space is excited about it. We need to define the pathways for what to do with the wood.
      - 2) Urban food forest; figure out how to make use of and maintain fruit trees.
  - Grant is due Aug. 27. Hope by next STC meeting to have it in good shape.
  - Put out notice for bids. Grant says they have to be ISA qualified so it's the same thing.
  - Tristan will send email out tomorrow to contractors.
- Arbor Day Celebration and planting for Nov. 8<sup>th</sup>
  - Behind the outdoor gym by fire station.
  - Spacing accounts for 25 trees on the sides. Also space in front of the heron sculpture for 4 or 5 trees. Make sure tree placement doesn't affect line of site to sculpture. Total of 29 trees.
  - David said they'll send list of preferred species to Menards and get back to us if substitutions need to be made. Further down the slope there may be issue with standing water.
  - Katherine Ann has a trailer of hand tools that we could use. Had hoped to get an augur but not sure. If we can acquire, augur holes out the day before. (Friday, Nov. 7<sup>th</sup>).
  - Soil conservation to get a soil test for ph. Pin oaks if it's acidic.
  - Mary Reed has a list of volunteers from Arbor Day folks.
- **Announcements & Other Business**
  - Next meeting: August 14, 2025
  - Aaron Leatherwood appeared at the meeting. He sent a permit request, but we didn't get it.
    - Request to plant trees in ROW at 100 Coventry off Pomeroy Road, next to the vet's office. A pine tree and two Bradford pears on private property were all right against and putting pressure on a drainage feature, so they were removed.
    - Aaron likes the look of cherry trees along the bike path but would be fine with river birches if cherry trees not acceptable.

- Tristan suggests trunk protection for the young trees...causes splits in bark on SW side. These new trees are in ROW. Tristan will check it out. We can get it approved before next meeting.

- **Adjournment**

- Motion: Michael Lincoln, Second: Joanna Sokol, Approved

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