



**AGENDA**  
**ATHENS SHADE TREE COMMISSION**  
**THURSDAY, MAY 9, 2025 AT 6:00 PM**

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

**1. Establish Quorum**

- **Members present:** Tristan Kinnison, Michael Lincoln, Gene Deubler

**2. Disposition of Minutes**

- April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025
- Michael motioned. Gene seconded. Approved.

**3. Title 33: Tree Permit, Right of Way Issues, Public Land**

Nothing to discuss.

**4. Title 37: Landscape Ordinance Issues**

- A submission by Karen Rudibaugh for a pollinator garden at 59/61 Franklin Ave. The application met all of the requirements with an extensive list of plants. While the Chair noted that the pollinator program is in the process of moving from Title 37 to Title 9, the process was not complete.
- The application was approved.

**5. Maintenance of the Tree Canopy**

Nothing to discuss.

**6. New Business**

**Proposed Code Changes involving STC.**

- Guest Molly Jo Stanley from the Environment and Sustainability Commission emphasized the importance of integrating the expertise of the Shade Tree Commission and the Regional Urban Forester.
- Gene agreed, stressing the city's potential to be an exemplary model for urban canopy management.
- Tristan suggested forming a group to discuss these changes with city administration and the planning commission.
- Several members said they'd be willing to represent the STC.
- Tristan will send an email to city administration, planning commission stakeholders, and interested parties to organize a meeting in hopes of developing a longterm plan.

**Annual Arbor Day Celebration**

- Tristan met with Katherine Ann Jordan to discuss.
- A date on the first Saturday in November was agreed upon, avoiding busy September and Halloween block party.
- Proposal to plant 20 trees near the new fire house and the outdoor gym and the bike path in that area. We would request trees from the tree bank.

### **Keith Robinson's invasive Callery pear communication.**

- The tree is spreading rapidly in this area.
- Tristan suggested contacting the Franklin County Soil Water Conservation District about their Callery pear bounty program.
- Gene supported the idea and suggested an education campaign to raise awareness about the removal of Callery pear trees.
- Tristan proposed a Callery pear tree removal event similar to our tree planting events to educate the public and remove Callery pear trees.
- Public library has an invasive removal kit. Perhaps STC could do an educational event in collaboration with the library.
- The Athens Soil and Water district will be contacted. Might they fund the event?

### **Harris Drive application for tree planting.**

- Since it's in the owner's back yard, we do not think it is necessary to consult the STC.

## **7. Old Business**

- Change in contractor qualifications. Has notice been sent to Greenleaf and Schumacher? They will be contacted directly to make sure.

### **Grants**

- ODNR urban forestry grant. 2nd round of funding. Apply for \$100,000 for urban forestry person. City has applied before but was not approved. Public support is significant, so we're hoping to be successful this time.
- Report on April 26 Bioblitz and tree inventory.
  - 10-15 folks attended. Almost 300 submissions on the iNaturalist.
  - Tristan plans to follow up with Eva on integrating the observations into the GIS system and hopes to use this data for future tree inventory projects.

## **8. Announcements & Other Business**

No other business.

- Gene motioned to adjourn; Michael seconded. Meeting adjourned.
- Next meeting: June 12, 2025

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