



**MINUTES**  
**ATHENS SHADE TREE COMMISSION**  
**THURSDAY, June 12, 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, Joanna Sokol, David Riggs

**2. Disposition of Minutes**

- May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025, meeting. Motion: Gene Deubler, Second: Michael Lincoln, Approved.

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

- Dead Tree + replacement at 21 Charles St
  - Property owner emailed Shannon to submit a permit. It was already removed but wants to replace the dead one and add 2 more trees in the ROW and will pay for it. Tristan sent her the form to plant and hasn't heard back. Tristan will reach out to her and send approved tree list. If they apply online it goes to city code office and David Riggs will bring it to the STC. City would want to check utility locations before they plant.
- Dead tree branches and uplifting sidewalk from tree roots 39-49 Morris Ave
  - Note dropped off at city building addressed to STC and disability commission. David said Morris has a very wide ROW but he will ask Public Works to check the sidewalk issue and double check boundary. Either way, the property owner is responsible. Gene suggested to use air spade to mitigate root issue, which is less damaging to tree roots.
- Lincoln St Pines
  - Property owner emailed Nita, with concern that dead tree branches fell. City has marked dead pine at corner of an unmaintained alley for removal. The owner would like all pines from alley to Meadow Ln removed, and they are willing to replace the trees. Questions: should living trees just be pruned and what would the timeline be if all trees are replaced? David Riggs will follow up.

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

- Pollinator Yard Permit for 23 Elliott
  - Tenants can submit these applications and be approved. Their list of plants is good. Before the permit is approved city will make sure fee is paid.
  - Motion to approve: Gene Deubler, 2nd Joanna Sokol. Approved.

**5. Maintenance of the Tree Canopy**

- Dead linden on Court St
  - In front of the tanning salon? It's been dead for a year. Use the Menard's tree bank to replace? Tristan suggested replacing with a black locust. Gene agrees.

- Young oaks along drive into library are stressed, need mulching/watering
  - Likely caused by drought stress. Gene suggests installing mulch beds and regularly watering. Suggest “tree diaper” which works better than gator bag. The diapers have a life span of 3-5 years and can be reused.
  - Tristan is going to meet with Andy and David soon to discuss in part the avenue for moving this kind of thing forward.
- Watering system for summers
  - STD would like to work with public works to establish routine training on watering and stressed tree ID. There is a water truck for flowering plants uptown but it’s not big enough for trees. Parks maintenance would do tree watering. Use tree diapers on high-risk trees. David said we need to figure out ways reduce man hours which will make this more possible.

## 6. New Business

- Green Project Camp through Patton College of Education
  - Going on now! They reached out a month ago and Gene replied but didn’t get a response. There is another session next week, but it’s probably too late to be involved.
- Rain Garden Workshop
  - Hoping for a recap from Michael Wood, but he is absent.
- Urban Ecology project write-up received from Dr. Matlack
  - Great project. STC commends Dr. Matlack on the course. We hope to be able to incorporate the information in our future projects.
- 1929 Tree Commission founding documents
  - Matlack found the original newspaper article about the formation of the STC.
- Letter of Support for Clean Ohio Grant for Athens Conservancy
  - Chris Fahl reached out to ask the STC for a letter. They want to buy a large piece of land next to the Wayne wildlife corridor. Tristan will follow up.

## 7. Old Business

- Change in contractor qualifications
  - We’re late in contacting contractors about the changes. Tristan suggested 6 months from this meeting for them to train operators for ISA exam. Motion to approve: Gene Deubler, 2nd Michael Lincoln. Approved
- STC Code Changes
  - Meeting with Andy and others appointed by the city. Tristan suggests including Ann Bonner and John from the planning commission.
  - We hope to link STC and City with a permanent seat on STC for a city administration person. Tristan would like to get us an Urban Forestry position, which is possible with the grant since the position has been vacant for three years.
- Committee updates
- Grants

- Gene finished first draft of application and has lined up significant public support by Rural action, Sustainability commission and others. Sam Crowl seems ready to support. David asked who would be responsible for managing the grant if there is turnover on the STC. Gene is hoping to get a letter of support from City Council.
- Bioblitz and inventory
  - Tristan has not heard back from Eva. He'll reach out to her again. That beginning tree inventory structure will be useful if we get the grant.
- Arbor Day Celebration and planting for Nov. 8<sup>th</sup>
  - Site visit tomorrow with Katherine Ann and Kevin Scurlock at the public gym by the firehouse to figure out spacing and tree list to send to David so it can be sent to Menard's. Roughly 25 trees.

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

- Next meeting: July 10, 2025

## **9. Adjournment**

Motion: Joanna Sokol, Second: Gene Deubler

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