



Minutes
ATHENS SHADE TREE COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21st, 2026
6:00 PM

Streaming is available at www.ci.athens.oh.us/video

1. Establish Quorum

Tristan Kinnison, Joanna Sokol, Michael Lincoln, Gene Duebler, Megan Almeda – Council Liaison, Mayor Steve Patterson

2. Disposition of Minutes

- November 13th, 2025
- Michael motion to accept, Gene seconded. Approved.

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

- None

4. Title 37: Landscape Ordinance Issues

- None

5. Maintenance of the Tree Canopy

- None

6. New Business

- New applicant for STC, Jonathan Hootman sent to Mayor and Debby Walker.
 - Mayor would like to add a civil engineer and a business owner to broaden the expertise on the STC.
 - Possibly someone from Russ College, Menard's or Oakview Dermatology. Both of those businesses worked with code when building on far E. State.
 - Need 2 permanent seats and 2 alternates. Anyone interested in becoming a member send letter to Mayor.
- Findings from Tree City App
 - 32 or 33 years in the program. Required to spend at least \$2 per capita and hold annual public tree plantings.
 - Parks and street crews both do tree work. Streets done through I-Work system. Parks department does not use a system like that.
 - Reporting:
 - \$13,494 in planting + care (~81 hours of volunteer labor)
 - Parks did the aftercare, mostly watering.
 - \$13,010 in maintenance (mostly pruning)
 - Street Department
 - \$25,761 in removals
 - \$10,000 contracted bid with Robson Tree
 - Total of \$55,082 for \$2.31/capita

- City annual work plan required,
 - Planting along Hocking. Contractors, ISA certified arborists.
 - Redo recommended tree planting list.
 - Improve our code based on a model like Chillicothe's?
 - Form a subcommittee
 - STC will endeavor to improve communication with parks department on work needing to be done, and record data collection involving tree work.
- Ideas for events/subcommittees
 - Uptown pruning workshop?
 - Westside gardens pruning done by Athens County extension agent Ed Brown.
 - Possibly coordinate with Ed for an uptown pruning workshop?
 - End of year report/city work plan
 - City management plan/inventory.
 - Mayor's thoughts:
 - Include in the grant application to ID champion trees.
 - A long-term goal would be to include all 50+ acres of preserves, as well as street trees, but it would require an army of volunteers.
 - Scouts put signs up years ago, that are now needing repair.
 - Some trees date by to 1770s.
 - Forest management plan possible?
 - Gene – Need personnel and resources. Andrew Chiki mentioned that there was a plan.
 - Mayor Patterson reported that the City budget is very tight, but a .02% income tax is to be voted on in May may help funding.
 - Use tree bank to get 200+ trees planted this year.
 - Advocated for Urban Forestry department.
 - Overhaul of recommended tree list
 - It was done about 10 years ago. 2015?
 - Non-natives that we should not recommend.
 - Delineate the native and non-natives.
 - Other events? Plans? Goals?

7. Old Business

- STC Code change
 - 8' bed in front of any development.
 - Resurrect those discussions.
- Nov 1st and 8th plantings
- In ODNR grant application, talk of taking the skeleton and applying it to other sources. Take it to Sugarbush foundation? Develop an urban wood pathway. Create a circular economy with the waste. (Maker space, local artists, etc.)
- Form a subcommittee to look at that.
- Subcommittee – Next work plan and yearly report, tree list, and revive pieces of ODNR grant. Gene may be able to look for money. Gene volunteered to work on all subcommittees. Tristan will head work plan, end of year report and updating recommended tree list.

- Gene recommended Jonathan Hoopman, biologist for the STC.
- Mayor Patterson suggested that incorporating an undergrad student with 2year tenure on AMAC and Recreation and STC. Possibly STC could incorporate a student from Dr. Matlack's urban forest ecology course.

8. Announcements & Other Business

- Next meeting: February 18th, 2026

9. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn – Michael, Second – Gene. Meeting adjourned.

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