

Minutes
Corporation of Harpers Ferry
Regular Tree Committee Meeting
Thursday, Jan 26, 2023
Town Hall 1000 Washington Street
Harpers Ferry, West Virginia 25425

Call to Order 6:58 pm

Present: Tyler Mayhew, Chair; Christy Huddle, Vice Chair; Guy Hammer; Paul Thomas, Planning Commission Liaison; Robert Nelson, volunteer, recording

Election of Officers for 2023. Christy nominated Tyler to continue as Chair. A second from Guy, passed 4 to 0. Tyler nominated Christy to continue as Vice Chair. A second from Guy, passed 4 to 0. No nominations for Secretary.

Approval of Minutes. July 19, 2022 special meeting. Motion to approve minutes by Christy, second by Guy, passed 4 to 0.

Unfinished Business. Status of the West Virginia 2022 Demonstration City tree grant. Report given by Christy. All but three items have been completed by the contractor: removal of a dead tree behind the town shed, removal of a dead tree leaning toward the house across from Town Hall on Franklin Street, and removal of the large willow tree in the Woman's Park.

New Business.

1. **Tree Committee realignment from under the Planning Commission.** The Planning Commission recommended that the Tree Ordinance be revised to have the Tree Committee become a separate body reporting to the Town Council.
2. **Fiscal year 2023-24 town budget requests.** Motion made by Christy to request \$3,000 for the Tree Committee in the 23-24 budget, and that an additional \$3,500 will be reserved for the work done under the matching grant that will be reimbursed by the state. Second from Paul, passed 4 to 0.
3. **Date and possible locations for 2023 Arbor Day celebration.** No date was selected for the Arbor Day celebration but it was decided that Ivy Day will take place on the same date.
4. **Ivy maintenance / removal issues.** Paul relayed that the Mayor will work to find more volunteers to help the Tree Committee with this work.
5. **Annual report to the Town Council.** Christy discussed the report she drafted. Tyler recommended that when the report is sent to the Town Council, we alert the Council about the vacant seat on the Tree Committee. Guy made a motion to approve the report with a second from Guy. Passed 4 to 0.

6. **Request to Town Council to include information on street trees in the welcome packet for new property owners / residents.** Paul offered to find out from the planning commission what was given to new property owners in the past.

7. **Request to Town Council, appropriate town commissions to develop plan for burying utility lines in town.** Guy led a discussion on the desirability and constraints of under grounding utility lines.

Committee Member Comments. None

Public Comments and Public Requests for Action on Trees. Robert asked if his being reinstated onto the Tree Committee would be appropriate. The Committee said “do it!”

Adjournment. Guy motioned to adjourn, Christy seconded, passed 4 to 0. Meeting closed at 7:44 PM.