

**Corporation of Harpers Ferry
Tree Commission Meeting
Thursday, July 25, 2024
Town Hall 1000 Washington Street
Harpers Ferry, West Virginia 25425**

Call to Order 7 pm

Members present: Christy Huddle, Chair; Paul Thomas, Planning Commission Liaison; Deb Thomas; Christian Pechuekonis, Robert Nelson, Secretary

Others present: Deb Kelly, Town Treasurer; Patty Morse, Parks and Recreation Commission.

Approval of Agenda The agenda was approved with a motion from Paul and second from Christian.

Introduction of new member Christian Pechuekonis was welcomed as a new member of the Tree Commission.

Election of officers for 2024

Christy was elected Chair; nominated by Paul, a second from Deb, unanimous, 5-0

Christian was elected Vice Chair; nominated by Christy and second from Deb, 5-0

Robert was elected Secretary; nominated by Deb and second from Christy, 5-0

Approval of minutes

January 25, 2024 minutes Approved with a motion from Paul, a second from Deb, Christian abstaining, 4-0

March 3, 2024 minutes Approved with a motion from Deb and a second from Paul, Christian abstaining, 4-0

Unfinished business

WV 2024 Demonstration City tree grant. The tree grant was completed by Christy with help from Deb Kelly and sent in by Deb Kelly on July 25, 2024.

Deb Kelly offered information about a pamphlet she received that talked about equal opportunity for vendors. She suggested we share the information and discuss it as a topic at a future meeting.

New Business

Issues with trees in Children's Park

Patty Morse told us that the Parks and Recreation Commission looked at the crabapple tree and recommended that it be removed and that the hackberry tree be trimmed. Christy said that too much mulch that is inside the short barrier was put on top of the roots of the Kwanza cherry tree. Patty said that some of the mulch would be moved off the roots.

Issue with “tree ordinance enforcement” of property owner at NW corner of Putnam and Franklin Streets

Christy said that the property owners of the lots on the NW corner of Putnam and Franklin Streets were told by the Ordinance Compliance Officer that they had to plant some trees now in the right of way. The Tree Ordinance calls for the Tree Commission to enforce the provisions of the ordinance. The Tree Commission has never required trees to be planted before water service is provided to the property. [Note added later: The Tree Commission has allowed removal of trees in the adjoining public right-of-way where the trees are over-mature, in poor condition, or will be adversely impacted by new construction. When this has been allowed, the Tree Commission has asked the property to provide new street trees after construction is completed.] The Ordinance Compliance Officer also told the property owners (here and elsewhere) that they would not be allowed to remove the bamboo that is in the town right-of-way. Christy asked Christian to see if there is a good model ordinance for dealing with bamboo that Harpers Ferry might want to consider given that bamboo is very invasive and prevents the planting of desirable vegetation.

Committee member comments Paul called our attention to the problem with the spotted lanternfly infestation. He suggested that we alert the town of this problem in the news letter. He also offered to email the Mayor about this problem.

Public comments and public requests for action on trees None

Adjournment Meeting adjourned at 7:48 PM with a motion from Paul, second from Christian, passed 5-0.