

**Abingdon Tree Commission**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**March 16, 2020**

**Commission Members Present** (via conference call): Chris Sullivan, Cindy Patterson, Kathleen Wild

**Commission Members Absent**: Ryan Monahan, Mohammed Hasham

**Town of Abingdon Staff Present**: Kevin Sigmon

**Public Present**: none

**1) Roll Call**

The meeting began at 7:30 PM with roll call. As noted above, 3 of the 5 members were present via the conference call and a quorum was achieved for the meeting.

**2) Approval of the February 17, 2020 Meeting Minutes**

Motion made to accept the minutes as presented: Ms. Wild. 2<sup>nd</sup>: Mr. Sullivan. Motion passed.

**3) Petitions and Public Hearings**

None presented.

**4) Reports to the Commission**

1. **2020 Arbor Day/Earth Day:** Mr. Sigmon reported the 2020 Earth Day event has been cancelled. He also reported that at this time, the Arbor Day event at EB Stanley Middle School was still on for April 24 but that was certainly subject to change. He will keep the Commission members aware of any changes.
2. **Fields-Penn House:** Mr. Sigmon recommended that due to the ongoing construction work at the Fields-Penn House, any decision regarding removing the Hemlock tree on the west side of the property be deferred until after the construction work is completed and an assessment can be made on how all the trees have reacted to the work. The Commission agreed to this recommendation.
3. **Bradford Pears:** Mr. Sigmon reported that all the Bradford Pears on Main Street and Old Jonesboro Road that the Commission agreed to have removed have been cut down with the stumps ground down. Corinthian Linden trees have been procured by Thomas Hollow Nursery, which will be planted on Old Jonesboro Road in June/July and redbud trees will be planted on Main Street this spring.

4. **2020 Abingdon Tree Initiative:** Mr. Sigmon stated this year's ATI is in progress and will be mailed in early April with a deadline of June 1.

**5) Items Not on the Agenda**

- 1) Ms. Wild asked about the Umbrella Magnolia tree on Dr. Gilmer's property at Oakhill and Hillside Drives. Mr. Sigmon said he received a notice from Dr. Eric Wiseman at VA Tech that this tree is now the VA Co-Champion for its species. Mr. Sigmon stated that if anyone wished to see this tree to let him know and he'll meet them at the property.
- 2) Ms. Patterson asked if there were any plans for replanting at the Visitor's Center at the site of the large White Oak that fell in the recent storm. Mr. Sigmon replied that plans were on hold pending decisions on whether the property was to be sold.

The next scheduled meeting is set for April 20, 2020 on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of Town Hall at 7:30 PM. There being no further matters to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM..