

**Abingdon Tree Commission**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**June 15, 2020**

**Commission Members Present:** Chris Sullivan, Kathleen Wild, Mohammed Hasham

**Commission Members Absent:** Ryan Monahan, Cindy Patterson

**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 March 16, 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 Abingdon Tree Initiative Recap:** Mr. Sigmon reported that 16 property owners have submitted requests for reimbursement to date, which is more than in any other year. He also stated that in talking to local nurseries, the program has instigated a significant number of property owners to purchase trees, but for whatever reason, they do not submit the paperwork for reimbursement.
2. **Ash Tree Removals:** Mr. Sigmon reviewed the list of Ash trees that have been cut down this spring and forewarned the Commission that several more will need to be cut down soon.
3. **Replacement Plantings for Bradford Pear Removals:** Mr. Sigmon stated that he has 2 “Flamethrower” Redbud trees ready for planting on Main Street across from Sinking Springs Presbyterian Church and 2 standard Redbud trees will also be planted along this stretch once they arrive. He also stated the Corinthian Linden trees will be ready for planting in the median on Jonesboro Road within the next month.

4. **Sports Complex Landscaping:** Mr. Sigmon reviewed the landscape plan in its current form. The major editing points are 1) extending the row of trees along the western boundary as far south as possible and along the southern boundary to screen the area from I-81 2) include trees in each alleyway between the ball fields and near the central concession stand 3) include trees in several empty spaces where applicable.

**5) Items Not on the Agenda**

- 1) Ms. Wild asked about the construction at Fields Penn House. Mr. Sigmon replied the exterior construction is apparently over and hopefully, the trees will be able to recover. He added the Hemlock on the western side of the property is slated to be removed.
- 2) Mr. Sigmon informed everyone of the pending tree planting celebration at the Creeper Trail Wye Park in memory of French Moore Jr. This can serve as Abingdon's Arbor Day celebration. Mary Ann Moore and French Moore III are all in favor and have asked for a Maple tree to be planted. The Commission was in agreement this can be made into a major public event, but as such, it will have to wait until the pandemic restrictions have eased. The Creeper Trail Club will be asked to get involved in this event.

The next scheduled meeting is set for July 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 8:15 PM..