

Abingdon Tree Commission

Regular Meeting Minutes

July 20, 2020

Commission Members Present: Chris Sullivan, Mohammed Hasham

Commission Members Absent: Ryan Monahan, Kathleen Wild Burcher

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, 2 of the 4 members were present via the conference call and a quorum was achieved for the meeting.

2) Approval of the June 15, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Motion made to accept the minutes as presented: Mr. Sullivan. 2nd: Mr. Hasham. Motion passed.

3) Petitions and Public Hearings

None presented.

4) Reports to the Commission

1. **Replacement Plantings for Bradford Pears:** Mr. Sigmon reported that the plantings on Main Street have been delayed by the adjacent sidewalk work but the trees on Old Jonesboro Road will be planted this summer.
2. **Ash Tree Removals:** Mr. Sigmon stated the Ash trees in Sinking Springs Cemetery will be removed this month and several other Ash trees are already on the list to be taken down.
3. **Sycamore: Valley Street:** Mr. Sigmon reviewed the situation with the Sycamore blocking a culvert under Valley Street near Walden Road. The Commission agreed this is a public safety issue. Motion to have this Sycamore tree removed and several site appropriate trees planted back once the removal process is complete: Mr. Hasham. 2nd: Mr. Sullivan. Motion passed.
4. **Tree Give-Away Program: Fredericksburg, VA Model:** Mr. Sigmon reviewed the program implemented by Tree Fredericksburg and asked the Commission if they would be interested in implementing a similar but smaller scaled program. Looking at Spring, 2021. Mr. Sullivan added

there is a somewhat similar program taking place in Floyd County, VA. Mr. Sigmon offered various scenarios and possible venues where the trees could be offered to the public. Possible business sponsorship partners were discussed. The Commission agreed by consensus for Mr. Sigmon to proceed with this program. Mr. Sigmon stated he needed to write a proposal to his supervisors to begin.

5) Items Not on the Agenda

- 1) Mr. Sigmon asked if the Commission was agreeable to receiving the meeting packet (minutes and agenda) digitally via email. The Commission members present were agreeable to this idea.
- 2) Mr. Sigmon informed the Commission that a Town Council representative has not yet been selected to fill the vacant seat but he anticipates the seat to be filled in the near future.

The next scheduled meeting is set for August 17, 2020 on the 1st floor of Town Hall at 7:30 PM.

There being no further matters to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 8:24 PM..