

**CITY OF CORTLAND
LANDSCAPE AND DESIGN COMMISSION
MINUTES – January 9, 2014
Mayor’s Conference Room at 4:00 p.m.**

Members Present: Mike Dexter (Chair), Anne Doyle, Paul Paradine, Diane Batzing

Consultants: Jim Maloney (National Grid), Steve Broyles (SUNY Cortland)

Approve the January 9, 2014 Minutes: Comm. Doyle, 1st; Comm. Dexter, 2nd

2014 Tree Program Planning:

Mack Cook informed the LDC that the City will contribute \$400 in addition to the \$5600 available from the National Grid 10,000 Trees Program. This will mean about \$1500 less in tree purchases than what has been available for each of the past two years from the DEC Urban Forestry Grant. Jim Maloney reports that National Grid has paid the City \$12,905 toward the 10,000 Trees Program since 2003; we will need to reconcile this figure with what the Finance Office has on record.

Comm. Batzing will modify the tree application flier for this year. Jim Maloney indicates that National Grid will print color copies for our use.

Not all of the specific trees have yet been selected. Comm. Batzing will visit the nursery when the weather clears.

Tree City USA Application:

Comm. Dexter has submitted the City’s application with John Graham of the Regional DEC Office here in Cortland. To qualify, a municipality is required to spend \$2.00 per resident on tree related activity. The equivalent of \$70,972.70 has been spent for this purpose. In addition to the trees removed by the City, National Grid has removed sixty-one trees. More dead, dangerous, or unsightly trees are being removed in Cortland than are being replaced by young trees.

Arbor Day Project:

The Colorado blue spruce at the Waterworks that is lit each year at the holidays has been dying. Cortland Repertory Theater has offered to donate \$1,000 to the City when they were given permission to remove a locust tree near their new downtown facility on Port Watson St. The Landscape and Design Commission will utilize this money to purchase the new tree for the Waterworks’ site.

Round 12 DEC Urban and Community Forestry Grant Application

Comm. Batzing worked with Ann Hotchkin of Thoma Development to submit a proposal in the amount of \$16,800 to plant public and right-of-way trees throughout the City, with emphasis on the East End. This is a matching grant, and as with the previous grant, the DPW will plant 120 trees, with implementation for 2015 and 2016. Notification of funding is expected this summer.

Recent Tree Concerns/Notes:

- A tree planted on Lincoln Ave. in 2013 was destroyed over the Cortaca Jug weekend.
- Trees hit by a car on River St. property are not on the ROW.
- A tree that caught on fire on Alvena St. has been trimmed by Nelson Tree Service and the owner is happy.
- Comm. Dexter will check out a tree at Homer and Lincoln Aves. that has been dropping branches.
- Comm. Dexter will write a letter to the newspaper urging people to keep plows away from new trees.
- Comm. Dexter will ask Nick Dovi to check out a branch leaning over Carpenter Place.

Other:

- The City has received the \$15,295 DEC match following the completion of the Round 10 Urban and Community grant requirements. Comm. Batzing accompanied John Graham in inspecting the plantings.
- The Commission set the second Thursday at 4 p.m. as the meeting date and time for this year.
- Steve Broyles commented on a student tree inventory study in the City.

- Jim Maloney reported that National Grid has paid the required \$25 City permit for 2014. \$24,000 was donated by National Grid for tree trimming/removal services in the City in 2013!
- Theresa Quail's name will be placed on the Common Council agenda for Commission membership.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, February 13, 2014 – Mayor's Conference Room at 4 p.m.

Respectfully,
Comm. Batzing