

CITY OF CORTLAND
LANDSCAPE AND DESIGN COMMISSION
MINUTES– November 10, 2010

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

Approve October 13, 2010 Minutes: Comm. Doyle, 1st; Comm. Paradine, 2nd

S. Main St. Tree Replacement Update

Eighteen trees have been planted with \$6060 funding from the National Grid small tree fund. Disappointingly, a major branch has already been ripped from the red chestnut in front of the Stone Lounge. Letters have been mailed to One Cent Saloon (new site) and Cayuga Press (former trees died from string trimmer) about proper tree care.

Status of Tree Ordinance Changes

Another letter was sent to Mayor Feiszli on 10/19/10 requesting a reply to our 9/10/10 request for Common Council changes to the Tree Ordinance. We would like to have the City assume responsibility for all trees in the right-of-way. In addition, we would like to require approval from the Landscape and Design Commission for major pruning (greater than 20%) or for the removal of right-of-way trees, regardless of City or property owner expense for this action.

Other Items

- Comm. Dexter has received a call from Nelson Tree Service regarding the upcoming trimming on Owego St. for National Grid.
- Comm. Dexter has received a call from Amy Monte of URS consultants regarding the plans for improving the Charles St. properties that NYSEG is mitigating. They would like recommendations for four replacement ROW trees they wish to remove. Comm. Paradine will contact Ms. Monte to relay suggestions.
- Comm. Dexter will inform the City regarding Commissioner Meghan Cerveney Pressley's move to Ohio. We will greatly miss her presence and expertise.
- Comm. Dexter will contact John Graham regarding the Tree City USA application that is due soon. With this year's expenditures for tree planting and tree removal, we will have more than enough to meet the \$2.00 per capita community forest annual budget requirement.
- Commission members are encouraged to attend the December 10 CNY Releaf Workshop at the Cortland DEC on Fisher Ave. According to the registration form, "Attendees will receive the Cornell Community Preparedness Plan Development Workbook in an effort to help community leaders make forestry decisions; budget for inventories, tree removal and replanting; protect them from liability issues and promote strategies to protect their 'green' assets – community trees. Local experts will discuss their decision-making strategies and answer the challenging questions when facing the devastating impacts of the EAB (emerald ash borer)."

Comms. Dexter and Doyle will attend the next Common Council meeting to distribute registration forms.

- Comm. Paradine, a member of the Ithaca Shade Tree Advisory Committee, informed us about Ithaca's concern over the EAB. He feels that it is very important that Cortland be aware of the EAB impact to the City, financially and otherwise.

List of Recommended Trees for Residents

The Commission discussed several tree varieties from the Cornell Urban Horticulture Institute's *Recommended Urban Trees*. We will continue reviewing and developing the list of trees for Cortland residents. Comm. Paradine will get a list of recent trees planted in Ithaca for us to consider.

Respectfully,
Comm. Batzing

**NEXT MEETING: December 8, 2010
Cortland Waterworks Pump House
6:30 p.m.**