

**CITY OF CORTLAND**  
**LANDSCAPE AND DESIGN COMMISSION**  
**Minutes - October 11, 2023**  
**4:00 p.m. at City Hall - Mayor's Conference Room**

**Present:** Mike Dexter (chair), Paul Paradine, Theresa Quail, Diane Batzing

**Consulting Arborist:** Jim Maloney (National Grid)

**Guests:** Jan Brath (landscape architect, Fisher Associates), Mayor Scott Steve, Nic Dovi (DPW)

**Approve September 13, 2023 Minutes:** Theresa Quail, 1st; Mike Dexter, 2nd

### **Main St. Tree Planting Plans**

- Jan Brath of Fisher Associates in Ithaca addressed the commission about the tree species planned for Main St. next spring.
- Concern about an initial plan for the Autumn Blaze maple was happily dismissed as an oversight. Multistem maples in planters will be planted, with 8" of stone, 23"-36" of planting medium, an under drain, and 6' overflow space.
- Because of our concern over the sparse limb structure of the Espresso Kentucky coffee tree, possible substitutions were discussed.
- Jim Maloney and Paul Paradine mentioned concern about Cortland's soil for the chinkapin oak and suggested planting sawtooth oaks or hackberries.
- Mr. Brath spoke about many of the planting features, including the plan for 12"-24" of structural soil, subsurface tree anchors to direct the roots, and larger (60") metal grates stamped with "City of Cortland" from a Syracuse company. Triple ground local mulch will be used; weed barrier will not be used because weeds tend to grow on top of this.
- Nic Dovi spoke about the possible decision to remove the five pear trees in the pocket park. They will be removed because of their deteriorating condition; however, just three trees will be replaced because those on the west end of the row would create problems due to grading height. We will discuss an appropriate replacement species.

### **Spring 2024 Tree Planting Program Planning**

- 30 trees have been ordered from Schichtel's Nursery; 4 tall trees are still available; 1 underwire tree request is on the waiting list.
- Jim Maloney and Nic Dovi have provided the ash tree removal list.
- Comm. Batzing has asked Aspinall's Nursery in Chittenango for Ruby Red chestnut availability. This is a highly requested species.
- Mayor Steve acknowledged that the City will cover the cost of the 2024 trees (\$3997) plus the required stakes (\$500).

### **NYS-DEC Inventory and Management Plan Grant Status**

- NYS-DEC director, Gloria VanDuyne said the awards will be announced in August or September; however, the awards have not yet been announced.

### **Recent Tree Concerns/Notes**

- Clinton Ave. right-of-way weeds: Several property owners have removed the weeds, but many ROWs are still unsightly. Comm. Paradine is concerned about the question of whom is responsible for ROW ownership.

- Comm. Paradine related recent contributions NYSEG is providing for the City: Cayuga Landscape is doing fall cleanup for the Charles St. brownfield property; removal of a dead tree on Charles St.; Elm St. and Homer Ave. work.
- The Cortland Soil and Water Conservation District has planted an additional six trees at the Water Works.

### **Other**

- Jim Maloney spoke about his and National Grid arborist Tim Ticknor's work with SUNY botanist Steve Broyles' tree ID class. They are working on developing a Cortland tree inventory and have covered wards 1, 2 and 3 using iTree models.

**Next meeting: November 8, 2023 at 4 p.m.  
Mayor's Conference Room, City Hall**