

DEXTER VILLAGE TREE BOARD

March 19, 2013

Regular Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 9:04 am at the Village Offices, 8123 Main Street.

Present: Bishop, Coy, Henes, Hansen

Absent: Peters

Approval of the Minutes- Moved Coy, support Henes to approve the February 19, 2013 minutes as presented.

Motion Carried

Citizens wishing to Address the Board – None

Public Hearings - None

Pre Arranged Citizens Wishing to Address the Commission - None

Reports and Communication

Chair – Requested update on LaFontaine Norway Maples. Staff stated that project close out is still in progress, tree replacement will likely occur this spring, when weather permits.

Tree Board members – None

Community Development Manager – Report includes items on agenda for discussion.

Citizens Wishing to Address the Commission - None

Old Business - None

New Business

- A. **2013 Spring Planting** –
 - a. Staff reported on orders to date. Participation at 10 orders, generally participation around 10.
 - b. Staking locations – Next meeting will be in the field to stake planting locations. Staff will contact contractor, Ann Arbor Landscape, to contact Miss Digg prior to that. Board to meet at entrance to Dexter Business and Research Park (DBRP) and will walk all planting locations. Staff brought up the need to consider future sidewalk locations in tree placement. Board commented on necessity for sidewalk in DBRP due to lack of traffic. Second Street location to be near Car Wash at RR tracks, Board considers this an entrance to Village that needs sprucing up.

- B. **2013 Arbor Day Celebration Planning** –Friday, April 26, 2013.
 - a. Banner and other signs being ordered. Cost expected to be around \$500.
 - b. Huron farms and Second Street plantings to be staked at next meeting. Considering location at car wash on Second Street.
 - c. Seedlings. Staff ordered 100. Available at library from 10 am to noon, while supplies last.
 - d. Library volunteers – Cindy to give away seedlings and educational info, Sandy not available due to Rotary project planting over 200 trees in Dexter Township that day.

- C. **Tree Separation at Westridge** –
 - a. The following is info from the February meeting - per a Council request staff provided information on the tree planting requirements, typical lot frontages and challenges related to street tree planting in Westridge, specifically the distance or separation between trees planted on individual lots. Staff discussed the Council's concern that trees are being planted to close together, the development agreement requirement that 2 trees be planted per lot and the ordinance requirement that there should be 30-60 feet of separation between trees to allow for proper tree growth. The Board discussed the

challenges and will individually visit the site to view the circumstances. The Board did not take action and will discuss again at the March meeting prior to spring planting occurring. The Board discussed 2 potential options, 1. Require only one tree like the rest of the new subdivisions 2. Require that one tree be planted in the front yard and one on the ROW to increase the separation, but still plant the 2 required trees.

- b. March meeting follow up - After additional consideration the Tree Board made the following recommendation:
Moved Henes, Support Coy, that the Village Ordinances require that street trees be planted 30-60 feet apart, therefore given the conditions in Westridge, including but not limited to lot widths, driveways, utilities, sidewalks and other trees, that only one street tree be required in the right of way. Due to the development agreement in Westridge and the requirement for 2 street trees, it is recommended that one of the required trees be permitted to be an ornamental tree that should be planted in the front yard. A list of preferred street trees will be provided to developers and staff will work to notify developers of the modification to the requirement. Staff was asked to provide the recommendation to Council. Hansen to put together list of preferred street trees. Tree Board will keep list on hand if Planning Commission decides to amend ordinance Tree Board will provide a recommendation for inclusion.
- c. The Board also discussed ways to better manage tree trimming. The Tree Board would like to propose moving forward with a fall early management street trimming bid and contract. In reviewing the street trees in Westridge it was noted that many of the street trees are between 5-10 years old and in need of early management and structural pruning. The goal of the board would be to attempt to identify all the street trees in the new subdivisions, bid out a project with a specified annual budget and obtain quotes from contractors recommending a multi-year pruning plan. Since the Village does not have a forester the goal would be to establish a relationship for tree management that can also provide expertise to the Tree Board on recommendations. The Tree Board does not plan to focus on this project until the summer in preparation for a fall bid and late fall trimming.

- D. **2013 Tree Board Goals** – Staff requested that the Tree Board assist in providing valuable educational information for the newsletter, website and Facebook page. Staff requested that if the Board comes across information that is interesting to provide it so that we can continually be providing new information that is interesting, short and educational to residents. New website has a Tree Information link that has valuable information; however we need more quick read information to include in newsletters and on the Facebook page.

Proposed Business for Next Agenda

- A. Next Meeting –April 16, 2013 at 9 am - Field Meeting at Dexter Business and Research Park (DBRP)
- B. Arbor Day Planning – April 26, 2012
- C. Preferred Street Tree List - Hansen
- D. 2013 Spring Planting
- E. Educational Info Update / Website / Facebook

Citizens Wishing To Address the Commission - None

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Filing Approved 4-15-13

Allison Bishop, AICP
Community Development Manager