

Decorah Tree Board

June 25, 2020

The electronic meeting, via Zoom, was called to order by Chairman Scott Timm at 5:33pm.

Participating: Mark Faldet, Tina Hall, Drew Pellett, Scott Timm, Peter van der Linden, City Forester Sam Hogenson and City Engineer Jeremy Brill.

MOTION by Faldet, second by Hall: to approve the minutes of the May 28 meeting as circulated. Motion carried.

Brill reported that the grant proposal was submitted on time to Alliant Energy's Branching Out program. The Board is requesting funds to plant 25 trees in boulevards to replace those recently removed by the City. Awards will be announced in August.

Hall reported that the Rotary Club would like to plant a tree in Decorah in memory of a member. An option the City may wish to consider is establishing a memorial grove in city-owned property where such trees could be planted. Van der Linden said that in his experience working at arboretums, memorial trees sometimes die and that creates grief for the families who donated them. To avoid this problem, some Arboretums use established trees for memorials rather than plant new ones. Faldet noted that Luther College has a memorial tree program; the college will replace a tree that dies.

Hogenson reported that the tree planting at the airport is nearly complete.

Faldet reported that many unprotected small trees in boulevards were damaged by deer antler rubbing last winter. He suggested that the Tree Board provide tree guards for such trees. There was a consensus that this should be done.

Hogenson suggested that a small hackberry tree in the boulevard at Mechanic and Jefferson streets be transplanted elsewhere. Van der Linden noted that a tree is needed along Dug Road where a mature tree shading a patch of rare ferns was destroyed in a storm; being native, the hackberry would be a good choice for that location.

MOTION by Faldet, second by Pellett: to move the hackberry tree at Mechanic and Jefferson Streets to Dug Road and to purchase up to two additional trees to replace trees that died along Mechanic Street. Motion carried. Hogenson will follow up with Parks and Rec director Andy Nimrod regarding the hackberry tree.

The meeting adjourned at 6:07pm. Next meeting: Thursday, July 23 at 5:30pm, in person at City Hall and/or by Zoom, to be determined.

Peter van der Linden, Secretary