

Decorah Tree Board

November 14, 2019

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Scott Timm at 5:30pm in the City Hall Council Chambers.

Present: Mark Faldet, Dick Guilgot, 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 October 10 meeting as circulated. Motion carried.

Brill reported that the Board has spent of \$1,709.32 of its \$8,000 budget for FY 2020.

The October tree planting was reviewed. Hogenson noted that many of the trees he checked had been planted too deep. He suggested that if the Board schedules another planting where trees are scattered around town, fewer trees should be planted to make logistics simpler.

There are four left-over trees that need to be planted; Hogenson has identified sites for two of these. Possible locations for the other two were suggested by members of the Board.

Both Alliant Energy and Black Hills Energy have reduced the amount of grant money they offer for tree plantings. The next deadline for grant applications for both companies is November 1, 2020. Thus the Board will need to use its budgeted City funds for tree plantings in 2020.

More ash trees will be removed by the City this winter. Hogenson suggested that when these are taken down, City staff check to see if replacement trees are appropriate in those locations and secure approval from property owners. The Board will then know how many trees, and what kinds of trees, to order in the spring.

It was agreed to hold a tree pruning workshop in March or April, also an Arbor Day tree planting demonstration.

Hogenson reported that some supplies are gone or getting low: stakes, tree guards, and zip ties. There is an adequate supply of water bladders, although he would prefer that we use a different kind in the future.

The meeting adjourned at 6:25pm. Next meeting: Thursday, January 30 at 5:30pm at City Hall.

Peter van der Linden, Secretary