

Decorah Tree Board

July 8, 2021

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Scott Timm at 7:05pm in the City Council Chambers.

Present: Mark Faldet, Dick Guilgot, Tina Hall, Scott Timm, and Peter van der Linden. City Forester Sam Hogenson participated by telephone.

MOTION by Faldet, second by Guilgot: to approve the minutes of the May 27, 2021 meeting as circulated. Motion carried.

Hogenson feels the Board should inform residents how to identify ash trees and encourage them to check for the presence of ash trees on their properties. Earlier, Pellett and Timm agreed to prepare a press release on this subject. Timm will follow up.

Hogenson reported that he has replaced a tree that died on Short Street and will be replacing others. He is contacting homeowners where ash and other trees have been removed from boulevards, to determine if they want replacement trees and if so what size. Also, he worked with Stevenson Tree Care to root-prune trees facing construction damage along East Main Street.

The swamp white oaks that arrived too late for spring planting still need to be planted. Hogenson has selected locations for all five trees. The Board agreed to meet at City Hall on Thursday, July 29 at 5:00pm to plant the trees. Hogenson will get utilities located and have the sites prepared for planting. When the Board gathers he will demonstrate proper planting techniques at one of the sites.

In response to a question, Hogenson said that the City has an ample supply of tree guards. The Board agreed to install these on young boulevard trees around town before deer rubbing begins in fall.

There was discussion about cabling/and or bracing a large Norway maple at the corner of River and Main Streets so it would not have to be removed. Normally the City does not provide this service for boulevard trees, but it was noted that doing so would provide an example to property owners of how to preserve large trees.

Hogenson will remove a flagging branch on a rock elm on 5th Avenue, which might be infected with Dutch Elm Disease. This is another service the City does not normally provide, but the tree is a fine specimen of a rarely planted species, so in this case it seems justified.

The meeting adjourned at 7:43pm.

Peter van der Linden, Secretary