**The Town of Leesburg**

**Leesburg Tree Commission**

**MEETING MINUTES - DRAFT**

**Tuesday, June 20, 2023 7:00PM**

**Town Hall, Lower-Level Conference Room II**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Earl Hower (24), Chair

John Groothuis (26), Vice Chair

Frank Schneider (26), Member

Elizabeth Welch (24), Member

Joe Garnreiter (24), Member

Phil Marshall (24), Member

**ELECTRONIC PARTICIPATION:**

NA

**ABSENT:**

Tom Stokes (26), RESIGNED

**COUNCIL PRESENT:**

NA

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Noble Atkins, Urban Forester, Commission Liaison

**PUBLIC PRESENT:**

Chris Spigt

**1) CALL TO ORDER/ROLLCALL**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Hower at 7:04 pm.

**2) APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Mr. Hower motioned to approve the June 20, 2023 agenda**.**

Motion to approve: Marshall

Second: Welch

Carried: 6-0-1

**3) APPROVAL OF THE MAY 16, 2022 MINUTES**

Mr. Hower motioned to approve the April 11, 2022 minutes.

Motion to approve: Welch

Second: Garnreiter

Carried: 4-0-2-1

**4) PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mr. Spigt has noticed local outbreaks of aphids on Poplars, widespread scale, and giant conifer aphids.

**5) SUBCOMMITTEES**

**Adopt A Spot**

Mr. Marshall volunteered to dig up several ornamental grasses that are blocking the stone wall. Mr. Atkins agreed to replant them elsewhere. Mr. Hower identified a double leader in the tree and Mr. Atkins agreed to prune it out.

**6) OLD BUSINESS**

**a) Tree Tour App – Design Progress Update**

Mrs. Welch transferred primary responsibility of the App to Mr. Garnreiter and Mr. Marshall.

**b) Ten-Year Tree Canopy Study 2005-2015 – Status Update**

Mr. Atkins mentioned that 2 GIS interns are working at the Town for the summer and time permitting, they will add newly planted trees to the Town GIS database for use in calculations for the next 10-year canopy study.

**c) Treesburg.org Cooperative Tree Planting Initiative with EAC – Status Update**

Jennifer Chu’s joint planting project behind the bowling alley was discussed.

**d) 2021-2022 Tree Commission Report to Council (July 11th) – Review**

Mr. Hower asked for Member feedback to be returned for the final draft of the report. He will make the presentation to Council on July 11th.

**7) NEW BUSINESS**

**a) Fill Tree Commissioner Vacancy**

Neil Steinburg nominated Roberta Griffith as Tree Commission new member.

**8) COUNCIL COMMENTS**

N/A

**9) STAFF COMMENTS**

Mr. Atkins announced that a PSA was about to be released on the first 10-year tree canopy study. He informed the Members of planned tree transplanting operations to save trees from being destroyed on the Evergreen Mill road widening project. Mr. Atkins asked the Members to routinely submit locations where Ailanthus trees are discovered across town, so the Town can remove them systematically.

**10) COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS**

The Members discussed creating a PSA entitled, “Ailanthus – Wanted Dead, Not Alive.”

**11) ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Hower made a motion to adjourn.

Motion to approve: Marshall

Second: Garnreiter

Carried: 6-0-1

The meeting adjourned at 8:18 PM