

**Shepherdstown Tree Commission Minutes**  
**Thursday, June 12, 2025 @6pm – Town Hall**

Members present: Linus Bicker, Robin McGrorty, Charlotte Baker-Shenk (absent: James Dillon)

Linus called the meeting to order at 6:10 pm.

**Approval of May 6, 2025 Minutes**

Robin moved to approve the draft tree commission minutes of May 6, 2025.

No objections noted.

Linus expressed appreciation to Charlotte for helping save the huge balsam fir behind Cool Green. The commission will send a letter to Sam McMahon of Cool Green expressing our appreciation for his willingness to preserve the tree while removing others to create more parking space.

Action: Charlotte will draft the letter. Linus and any others who can join him will convey the letter to owner Sam McMahon.

**Unfinished Business**

**Review pending and completed tree actions – Tree Action Log**

Derek of Bartlett Tree Service has transferred his relationship with the town to a new person. In response to feedback from town arborists, he had agreed to improve on Bartlett's pruning of the iconic crabapple, but that work has not been done.

Because of firelight risk, we agreed it was best to only do what is necessary now, then revisit the need for pruning when tree is dormant.

Sugar maple next to Town Hall is dying back and will likely need replacement in the fall.

Shawn and Jamie planted at Riverfront Park the black willow from James and the bald cypress from the forestry service. Both are doing well.

Tree #137 (hit by car): Viking pruned this recently; Robin says it's looking healthy. Needs assessment on whether we should do borer treatment.

Action: Linus will ask Shawn to assess.

216 W. German— large tree was removed here. Has been bricked over; electric lines above.

Action: consider this site for a fall planting.

Hazard trees on High & Mill Sts: Linus has received proposal for this work from Viking and has told them to go ahead.

Sage Place tree wells: James long ago recommended planting wood sedge in these wells, but has been unable supply these perennials from nurseries. Also, Charlotte observed that

currently there is very little mulch in the wells; an insufficient amount was supplied by the town.

Action: Linus will check on Town's planned tree maintenance contract concerning the mulching. Will also check with James on the sedges. Linus will order mulch from Sunny Meadows for the Sage tree wells; deliver to town for town to distribute to the wells.

## **New Requests**

306 W German, Cameron Turner requested pruning, indicating the tree was touching the house, in powerlines.

Action: Need to verify to see if work needed.

Jay Cline on 211 W New St: request for trimming.

Action: Robin will double check to see if this is needed.

Sidewalk clearance/pruning on King Street, and Welcome Center crab apple low hanging branches.

Action: Needs minor pruning.

410-412 E German dead tree: a town tree?

Action: Linus will check with Liz McGowen to find out who owns that strip of land between the duplexes and the street. Is there a stormwater easement?

307 W German, Amerikaner home: pruned limb died.

Action: Robin will check with Erik of Viking to clarify direction of work order (was this to remove hazardous deadwood only? Or also to remove any limbs touching the building?)

Linus added an additional new concern— 210 New Sts: observed a large maple, touching the roof from the house.

Action: Linus will tell the owner. Will request Viking bid for pruning.

## **Question for future discussion**

Should we be doing more regarding tree healthcare?

If we see a tree struggling, should we be doing fertilization or some other kind of treatment?

Soil management care?

Robin noted that Viking is now doing trainings on soil health.

Action: Linus will ask Shawn about American maples — ways to treat them?

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## **Arborscope**

Renewal: Linus is waiting for the new fiscal year to begin to pay for this renewal. Seems we don't have access to the database now; the password doesn't work.

Updating database: Erik of Viking Tree Service sent to Robin a listing of all the actions he has taken for the town so that Robin can update the Arborscope database. We currently

**Fall planting FY 26**

We think we should target planting of 10 new trees.

Possible locations

Rumsey Park— add some balsam firs around the circle?

216 W German (replace large tree that was removed)

W German St out towards Food Lion— could use several trees there, conifers?

One additional tree across from El Ranchero?

Action: commissioners should be thinking about what trees to recommend for fall planting.

**Town Website**

Website highlighting town “Tree City” designation. Jim Auxer at a previous meeting had suggested we include some photos showing the town tree canopy. Charlotte earlier shared photos created by David Ehrlich (drone shots).

Action: Linus will take needed steps to see about inclusion of one or more photos.

**Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 7:53 pm.