

**Avon Lake Citizens Tree Commission
May 10, 2023, 7pm , Old Firehouse**

Roll Call:

- **Present**
 - Voting Members: Amanda Byrnes; Michael Thain; Terry Robison; Councilperson Jennifer Fenderbosch
 - Guests: Karen Moran, Sue Newcomb

- **Not Present**
 - Public Works Director Kevin Brubaker
 - Urban Forester (Vacant)

Quorum: Yes

Minutes of Prior Meetings:

- Minutes from April, 2023 meeting
 - **Motion:** Accept the minutes from the March meeting. Amanda Byrnes 1st, Jennifer Fenderbosch 2nd. Unanimously approved.

City Council Report:

- **Urban Forester job description approved by Civil Service Commission and then City Council**

- **HR Committee met regarding salary for full time urban forester**
 - Mike and Terry attended. Agreed to bring to Collective Committee meeting the proposed salary range. HR Mary instructed by Mr. Zuber to check other communities and State of Ohio salaries; verified our assumptions. Will be on CCM and then Council agendas.
 - -Range of salary paid to BS degreed forester same as an engineer in the city. 62,337 to 80,080. Avg 71,209.

- **Jen and Terry met with Service Director of Bay Village**
 - They have 2 ISA cert arborists on staff and are interviewing for a TRAQ forester to be part of the team.
 - Have equipment, continuing education and completed tree inventory to prioritize workflow. Also 6 dedicated tree workers.

- **Jen talked to Rick Varga, an ISA certified arborist in Avon.**
 - Wants to meet with us to help with their program.

Urban Forester Report:

- N/A

Old Business

- **Arbor Day 2023 wrap-up and thank you letters; 2024 plans (field day)**
 - Held event at St. Joseph. Parents, Terry, Mike, Jen, Mayor Zilka in attendance.
 - Articles in Cleveland.com and Lorain Chronicle

- Program at Troy Elementary later in the morning.
- Need to begin planning for a student event next spring.

- **Grant Application through Ohio Division of Forestry for funds from US Forest Service's Urban & Community Forestry Inflation Reduction Act Grants**
 - New state urban forester in our region – Matthew Leidon. He will let us know when the grant is available.

New Business:

- **Avon-on-the-Lake Garden Club presentation: Spotted lanternfly (SLF)**
 - Karen Moran and Sue Newcomb presented information about the spotted lanternfly and it's appearances in Ohio. The presentation included preserved samples of examples in various stages of the insect lifecycle and branches of tree of heaven host tree.

Open Discussion:

- N/A

Motion to adjourn – Terry Robison 1st, Amanda Byrnes 2nd. Unanimously approved.

Next meeting June 15, 2023, Old Firehouse.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Thain, Secretary