

Morgantown Tree Board (MTB)

Minutes, regular meeting of December 16, 2013

Present: MTB members Katherine Payne, Dan Brown, Brent Bailey, Secretary Jon Weems, and Chair Kara Hurst, and city employee Marchetta Maupin.

By previous email agreement, the planned December 16 work session was cancelled in favor of a regular meeting.

Chair Kara called the meeting to order at 4:07 PM in City Council chambers and noted that a quorum was present.

Katherine moved and Dan seconded that the November minutes be approved as drafted. The motion carried unanimously.

Old Business

1. Old Minutes. Kara asked that October 2013 notes and January, February, March, and November 2013 minutes be sent to Susan Sullivan.
2. Tree of the Month (T-O-M). Katherine stated that the final T-O-M article and photo have been sent to the newspaper. She hoped the paper might also be interested in a retrospective combining all T-O-M materials.
3. High Street trees. There was discussion of the continuing problem of light string wires in trees. Uplighting from below was mentioned as a possible alternative to lights in trees, but it was noted that some cities are moving away from uplighting to reduce light pollution of the night sky.

New Business

1. Mountaineer Treeways. It was noted that trees available through this program are small and meant to be planted in their ultimate locations, not in nurseries, and vines would be troublesome for seedlings planted on the riverbank.
2. Archives. It was announced that former MTB chair Ann Buckelew (formerly Ann Cumming) is moving away. She has old records of MTB actions and will turn them over to Marchetta.
3. Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). It was mentioned that EAB has been found at Coopers Rock and may already be present in Morgantown. MTB has planted very few ashes, none in the eleven years since the first detection of EAB in America.

4. Tree Work Needed. Marchetta reported on extensive tree work needed, including 76 trees in need of pruning on a \$10K Demonstration City grant. The City's in-kind match could consist of 12 removals, most in South Park, but others in Evansdale, Sunnyside, and downtown. 17 trees will be referred to Mon Power for pruning. There will be additional removals by BOPARC (4 trees), and by contractors to accommodate construction projects downtown.

Dan moved, and Jon seconded, that the meeting be adjourned. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 4:48 PM, followed by a walking tour to assess trees in need of pruning or removal on Walnut and Pleasant Streets.

Jon Weems