

LIVINGSTON TREE BOARD

REGULAR MEETING FEBRUARY 18, 2021, ZOOM, HIGH NOON

MINUTES

Attendance: Marshall Swearingen, Andy Mitchell, Dan Busch, Maureen Lighthiser, Lisa Harreld, Tom Shands

**Approval of Minutes from 1/21/2021 – Marshall made a motion to approve the minutes from 1/21/21. Andy seconded. All in favor.**

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Emerald Ash Borer** – Update and next steps. Marshall talked to Shannon. Shannon made some comments on the EAB Plan, including checking on the cost estimates for removing and replacing trees and for treating trees. Some of the estimates are from Ron Lillejdahl. Marshall will get estimates from Lois at MSU Extension Office. We will also get recommendations about estimates for how many trees should be treated, possibly in the ballpark of 300-500 trees. We may schedule a special meeting once these more specific estimates are in.

**Ash Tree Replacements** – Tom brought this subject up as a follow up to what resident Pat Thune brought up the previous month about the question of how the determination is made to remove ash trees and by whom. There were numerous trees, possibly 8 or 9, removed on M Street. Tom thought it looked like some of trees were healthy. There were also trees on F Street removed. He wonders if homeowners are able to give input about whether the trees are removed. Andy agreed that's a good question. Marshall added that generally speaking, the Tree Board, reviewed the Garvey report and survey and approved the recommendations in the Garvey report as to which trees are most hazardous and should be removed. Marshall hasn't talked to Shannon or Eric about tree removal on those streets. We may want to look at the Garvey report about its recommendations. This is another reason why we want to be proactive about a tree management plan. The Tree Management Plan draft has been sent to Shannon and Eric for comment. At this point the Tree Board is going to prioritize the EAB plan and pursue with the city commission.

**Active Transportation Plan** – The Tree Board is interested in giving feedback to the Active Transportation Plan. There will be an open comment period and we will be prepared to give input when the opportunity comes, possibly in March. We will develop recommendations. Yellowstone Bend Citizens Council has expressed interest in helping volunteer with planting and watering. Conservation Corp volunteers may also be available to help.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Boulevard Planting Guide** – Tom is working on putting together a rough draft of the tree planting guide. He's reviewing other cities planting guides, including Billings and Rapid City, SD.

He will also send it to Josh Bilboa at MSU Extension and Eric Schneider for comment. Once complete this will be a good document to add to the Tree Board web page on the City of Livingston website.

**Planting and watering** – We will continue to get information about summer conservation corps volunteers and look for opportunities to utilize their services.

**MSU Extension Master Gardener class volunteers for structural pruning** – Continue to work with Josh about offering a tree pruning class and possibly take advantage of master gardener students who have to complete a specified number of volunteer hours, possibly using tree trimming for volunteer hours. **Andy made a motion to reach out to Josh about offering tree trimming class as part of the master gardener program. Lisa seconded. All in favor.**

**Vice Chair vacancy** – We will postpone consideration to next month.

**Board Comments** – We welcomed Maureen onboard and we're looking forward to working with her!

Meeting adjourned at 1:15 pm. Next meeting March 18, 2021 at noon.