



## **MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES**

Monday, March 7, 2016

6:30 p.m.

City Hall, Room 214

**Commissioners in Attendance:** Kyle Snyder, Paula Chow, Damian Cobey, Michelle Crow-Dolby, Robert Courtnage, George Solley, Carolyn Helfrich (Arborist), Kerry Devine (City Council). **Ex-officio Members:** Mike Ward (Parks and Rec), Diane Jones (R-Board), Nancy Segarra (Public Works), Eric Nelson (Planning). **Visitors:** David Dorsey and Tom Smith (Main Street).

- Approval of minutes from 2/8/16
  - Diane – please add Diane Jones as attendee
- **Updates:**
  - Washington Ave. Tree Plantings—Process moving forward
    - Resolution to be presented to City Council March 8.
    - Proposal for seven-member committee to review all public comments (over 200 received) and develop recommendations regarding any changes to the existing tree plan.
    - Final recommendations due no later than July 12
- **Presentation:**
  - Main Street’s “Face the River” – David Dorsey and Tom Smith
    - Downtown merchants would like to remove and replace some vegetation
    - Goal is to reconnect downtown with the river
    - Many plans already created; every time, improvements to riverfront rank high
      - Latest report from Tom Barman (2015) noted numerous missed opportunities
    - Gist of project:
      - Main Street is about economics – this project should not have any negative impact on the river or water quality
      - Target area along riverfront is mostly City-owned
      - While river is in good health, scenic quality needs work and a systematic approach
    - Way forward
      - Survey of what is there
      - Remove invasives and replace with natives
      - Focus on one process at a time
      - Control access
        - Constant maintenance – must have a commitment
    - Priorities
      - 1710 Sophia (behind Happy Clam)



## CLEAN & GREEN COMMISSION

- Sever and remove invasive; remove dead trees
    - 907 Sophia
      - Another dead tree with vines
  - Original project 1001 Sophia
    - Issues with storm sewer out-take needing major improvements
    - Hopefully the sewer improvement will realize Main Street goals
  - Parking lots need help- litter, displaced parking stops, trash in trees, etc.
  - Timeline – changing all the time
- **Committee Updates**
  - Clean Committee
    - Recap of committee meeting and plans
      - Litter signage near river makes sense – should note that butts pollute our waterways
      - Signage at the high hotspots
      - More strongly worded sign for courthouse
      - Have ordered 1,000 4” stickers saying “Thank you from the Clean and Green Commission” to be placed on butt buckets
      - Have hired out bucket placement, bag placement
      - Ordering more yard signs
      - Reaching out to the sheriff’s office for enforcement
      - Anne Little: Would like to order more doggie bag stations (Diane said funds are available). Looking into attaching some to trash cans downtown.
      - Reached out to Main Street about placement of doggie bag stations downtown
      - Conversations with Parks and Rec about more butt receptacles
    - Outreach campaign on litter ordinance
      - PSAs to spread the word (maybe a “Clean & Green Minute,” like the “Rotary Minute”)
      - Kyle Snyder: Educate first, but eventually we’ll have to drop the hammer
      - Will need a strategic plan/timeline
  - Green Committee
    - Recap of committee meeting and plans
      - Dave King making presentation tomorrow night
      - Planting areas identified
      - Planting cutting back this fall to focus on pruning necessities
      - Pruning by Bartlett’s – only charge \$12 for 2-year-old tree and \$16 for 5-year-old tree
  - Sustainability Committee
    - Recap of committee meeting and plans
      - Green waste initiative
        - Tour of Livingston landfill



## CLEAN & GREEN COMMISSION

- Diversion plan in use for treated municipal sludge – combining compostables with sludge
- Under plan, paying \$22 per ton vs. \$80 per ton at landfill
- Social media outreach to residents – to spread word on recycling
  - There is precedent for municipal committees having their own social media sites/accounts
- Energy efficiency initiative
  - Potential for residential energy efficiency improvements
  - Do concurrent with Solarize campaign this year (June) – group purchasing model, offer payback options;
  - Meeting Wednesday with Tobin of the City of Durham to share ideas

Adjourned @ 7:30 p.m.