

Sunbury Service Committee
Meeting Minutes
September 1st 2021
6:30 PM

I. Call to Order- Committee Chair Damin Cappel opened the Sunbury Service Committee meeting at 6:30p.m., Wednesday September 1st, 2021, in Council Chambers.

II. Roll Call- Those answering roll call: Damin Cappel, and Martin Fisher. Also, in attendance were Mayor St. John, Engineer David Parkinson, Administrator Steve Pyles, Fiscal Officer Kathy Belcher & Olivia Ballard.

III. Minutes- Minutes from the August 4th, 2021, meeting were reviewed.

Motion by Martin Fisher.

Second by Damin Cappel.

2 yeas, minutes we approved.

IV. Visitors- No visitors.

V. Open Issues

Sunbury Estates sidewalk repair/replace plan with tree and pond plan

Steve Pyles continues with the discussion from last month's meeting.

Steve Pyles met with the ODNR urban forester for Sunbury area yesterday afternoon. She provided some helpful observations, with an eye toward tree preservation. Some of her observations included:

- the large maples are a species that really needs an 8' tree lawn, the current tree lawn is 6'.
- Some of the homeowners have mulched too high, a volcano mulch. This creates a variety of issues for a tree.
- She provided a synopsis of Central Ohio sidewalk policies and procedures (attached).
- We discussed buttress roots (the ones that keep trees from falling in wind), and a rule of thumb for when they can be cut.
- She has some concerns for monoculture planting when the same species of trees are used on a street.
- She advocates not removing trees that are related to sidewalk damage if the tree can be safely and effectively accommodated.
- She advocates that we select a few panels with large offsets around trees that will have to be replaced anyways and we open the panel to discern if the cause is tree related.
- She mentioned other communities are having success with hydraulic leveling as opposed to full repair.
- She provided Steve with a lot of good reading material, which he has been working through. One important take away is to prepare the tree for the stress of potentially cutting roots by first pruning in the fall and then cutting roots and disturbing the tree in the spring.

The options:

1. Current ordinance – repairs are at homeowner cost – we could implement an assessment process.
2. For the price of setting up the assessment process, inspection and filing of the assessments we could slice the sidewalks and replace the panels in excess of 1.5” in offset that are tree related at Sunbury’s cost. We could also evaluate hydraulic lifting as an option. The goal would be to save as many trees as possible.
3. Option #2 with the addition that if a homeowner desires to save a tree that cannot be saved with the current alignment of the sidewalk, they would allow a meander of the sidewalk on to their property – adding 2’ to the width of the tree lawn – so that the tree may be saved. This option could also include replacement of a more appropriate tree given the tree lawn space available.

Important factors to consider:

All options other than #1 will entail a re-write to our sidewalk ordinance, primarily the issue of street tree created damages reverting to Sunbury. There are several communities, Westerville, Delaware, Granville, Upper Arlington, Bexley that replace sidewalks damaged by street trees.

Those that recently complied with the ordinance and replaced sidewalks at their cost may ask about fairness.

There is a need to create a sidewalk maintenance plan and effort. With a consistent effort and investment each year we can move in manageable sections of Sunbury and bring the sidewalks to condition.

Next steps:

Services to discuss and settle on options to present to the neighborhood.

Organize and hold the meeting with the neighborhood.

Report back to Services on neighborhood input.

Services gives direction on option to implement.

Steve Pyles had also researched a variety of other municipalities sidewalk/street trees policies & put together a spreadsheet of the different policies around central Ohio. A discussion starts, and the general consensus is that the Village of Sunbury will pay for the portions of sidewalks that will be altered (ie slab jacked or grinded) however if the entire panel needs to be replaced, that will fall to the home owner to pay. However, there are many options discussed and the Village will have a meeting with the residents of that community to gather their input before deciding. Also, Steve Pyles will explore options on how to bill residents for sidewalk work and will contact David Brehm.

Update on Storm Water – Baughman

David Parkinson states that he is working to gather a simple planning profile that Brad Gerwig can provide to a few contractors to get this issue resolved. The survey was completed the previous Monday. He is expecting to receive the data next week, then he believes he will have it processed and be able to deliver it to Brad around September 15.

Update on objects in ROW

Steve Pyles states that notices were given, 30 days to remove items in the right of way. Steve Pyles will do an inspection around the second week of September to make sure everyone has complied.

Traffic Impact Study: 2022-2032

Mayor St. John talks about a traffic study that has been conducted by Big Walnut School District. This is a study that will indicate the level of traffic the year the project is complete (2022) and where it will be 10 years from then (2032). This study will assess and project traffic impact and highlight areas that could require additional construction of lanes or signal lights. Mayor St. John wanted to discuss this project now, because it will be an ongoing project for the next decade. The major area of concern will be around the new high school. Since these fixes will not be immediate and will be projects that will be addressed over the next several years, the High School has committed to have a traffic officer on Miller Drive for 2-3 years to reduce delays. The current estimates are a one-hour delay to get out of the neighborhoods in the mornings once the school opens in 2022.

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Sunbury Mills Tree Replacement

David Parkinson discusses that he has developed two tree replacement plans for Sunbury Mills. The cost would be \$26,500 for the full replacement of 64 trees, and \$22,000 for the 50 trees which was the original plan.

Greg Elliott asks to get quotes for both options before they decide.

Steve Pyles will be collecting quotes for both tree options and reporting back to the services committee.

VII. Adjournment

Motioned Damir Cappel.

Seconded by Martin Fischer.

Motion approved (unanimous) 7:27 pm