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TREE CITY BOARD MEETING
MAY 14, 2013

Minutes of the March 12th, 2013 meeting were read and approved.

VOTING MEMBERS : Present were Chairman David White, Vice Chairman John Williams, Max Bolick, Pat Simmons, Wilce Martin, and Mary Yoder. Not present was Tom Rowe.

OTHERS PRESENT: Sandra Waters, Parks & Recreation Director and Doyle Wyant with the Parks & Recreation Department.

OLD BUSINESS: A program on the American Chestnut Tree will be presented on Thursday, June 20th from 6PM until 7:30PM at the Historic Newton Train Depot. Information on the event is to be widely published on radio and in newspapers. The date may possibly be changed to Friday, June 21st.

The Newton-Conover High School Horticulturist has invited the Tree Board to meet with students for their September/October meeting. The date for the meeting is tentatively planned for October 8th but may be subject to change. Time of the meeting will be scheduled later. News media will be invited to attend.

Minutes of Tree Board meetings will be published on the City of Newton Website. This will be similar to what the City of Statesville is presently doing. Members of the board are encouraged to present ideas to be included on the website. Some examples may be tree topping, how to plant a tree, and tips to save trees in drought.

NEW BUSINESS: Some grant money may be available for purchase of tree inventory equipment and software. These grants should be applied for in January 2014 so that they can be approved by March. David and Doyle will prepare a list of items to be purchased with any approved grant funds. The grants will likely require matching city funds.

The Board discussed an interest in developing an Urban Wood Waste Program. Mulch is now being given away by the city. Wilce reported that leaves must be composted at 130 degrees for 3 days before they can be given to the public in order to rid them of bacteria. Chipped wood can be given to the public immediately. Doyle said that the city now buys mulch to be used on city property for appearance sake. To process city leaves and chippings to nursery standards would not be cost effective.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00

NEXT MEETING WILL BE TUESDAY, AUGUST 13TH IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS.