



Forestry Advisory Committee Meeting

March 3, 2016

Meade County Extension Office- 7:00 PM

Members Present: Bill McKee, Aaron Jordan, Tony Dargatz and Gene Stock.

Members Absent: Ken Meirose

Others Present: Josh Larson (Urban Forester)

Agenda Items:

Reviewed Minutes:

Aaron motioned to approved the January meeting minutes, Bill seconded. Motioned carried

Arbor Day

May 5, 2016 was set for Sturgis's Arbor Day Celebration. Josh will do a short presentation and the Parks Board with the help of local students will help plant trees at the Girls softball complex

Status of Dept of Agriculture Challenge Grant

Josh Larson informed the Forestry Committee that the State awarded the City of Sturgis an amount of \$1100 for the purchase of TreeWorks Software. Dr. John Ball will be in contact with Angie to proceed with getting the software, getting it installed, and learning how to use it.

Mountain Pine Beetle Update

Gene informed the Committee that the Mountain Pine Beetle infected trees have been cut down and chunked. We will have seasonals go up and turn them over later this summer

Discussion was held about the resources of the Watershed.

It was suggested we visit with Josh to see what his ideas are concerning the Watershed. Can we thin the trees and use the money from the thinning to help develop and maintain the trails? Josh agreed to take a look at the watershed and give us some ideas. We will contact him in the Spring to set up a time for him to come up and tour the area

Tree Care

Gene informed the committee that the Parks Dept have been doing tree maintenance in different areas throughout the city. They have removed trees at Francis Case area, 6th St area, Girls Softball area and at City Park. All that is left is the area from Centennial Park to 9th St. Forestry Board would like to see new trees planted along the creek bank in that area.

Other Matters

Gene asked Josh about a grove of dead pine trees out at Ft. Meade. Josh suggested a few reasons why they may have died, including weather or maybe too much moisture. He said he would come look at them sometime in the future.

Bill asked Josh about writing up a Forestry Stewardship Plan. Josh will look at the Watershed Property in late May and try to come up with a plan. Josh says the plans are usually updated every five years or so

Gene informed the Forestry Board that Mick Hurlburt has agreed to be on the Board. He will contact Mick with dates of the future meetings.

Josh presented a plan for an "Urban Agricultural Forestry Plan". He would like to help develop areas within the park system with native fruit bearing trees, bushes and shrubs. The trees and shrubs can be purchased from the local conservation offices at a fairly reasonable price. The Forestry Board was very receptive to the idea. Josh will come up with a plan and we will get some cost together and see if this is something we could do.

The next Forestry Meeting is scheduled for May 5, 2016 at 10:00 AM at the Girls Softball Complex for the Arbor Day Celebration

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Submitted by Angie Shideler