

# Village gives tree maintenance report, mayor seeks more grant funding

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by JAMES SINNER Editor

A community forum for the Village of Lancaster's tree maintenance project took place before their last regular board meeting, reviewing the results of grant funding applied to the area in recent years, and considering where that should guide them now.

In 2018, the village was awarded an Urban Forestry Grant from the state Department of Environmental Conservation. This was done specifically as a setup grant to evaluate and prepare what they should be doing with their trees.

According to Village of Lancaster documentation discussed during the meeting, the setup grant funding did two things:

- Provided an inventory of all the trees, the stumps, and the potential planting sites that were located on public streets and right-of-way spaces within the village.
- It also set up a community forest management plan, which provided the village with some guidance on budgeting and aided in creating a five-year-plan.

The funding from that grant, according to village documents, helped create a database that monitors new plantings, changes in tree condition and the specific work done on any individual tree.

At the time of initial inventory, there were 5,278 planting sites in the village, located on public streets and in areas of right-of-way. Of that number, 3,960 had trees and 1,302 were vacant planting sites. This information is meant to aid in becoming a 'tree city,' which helps apply for more grant funding, and by making estimates on how to budget for the following year, along with the types of work that needs to be done.

Bill Cansdale, superintendent of public works, says there are 142 trees that currently need planting throughout the village. "We could use this data to apply for another grant, if there is anything available for tree planting," he said. "You could probably double that throughout the village (number of plantings needed), with all the damage over the years from the storms." According to a "work type breakdown" presented at the tree maintenance project meeting – in addition to the 142 spots that could use a newly planted tree: 182 trees require pruning, 35 trees require removal and 43 stumps require removal.

Lancaster Mayor Lynne Ruda discussed plans for the future in light of this information. "As we move into budget time, it will be something that our forest advisory board works towards

deciding, how many trees the village would try and replace on a regular basis,” she said. “As we work and apply towards grants, we can look at some of those bigger chunks (of areas requiring tree planting or maintenance) and put out some grant applications in for those.”

A grant was awarded and applied recently for the pruning of some trees within the village, but according to reports at the meeting, this was just the start of what will be an ongoing process to keep Lancaster green.

<https://www.lancasterbee.com/articles/village-gives-tree-maintenance-report-mayor-seeks-more-grant-funding/>