

Oregon Heritage Tree Committee
Meeting Minutes
Chateau at the Oregon Caves, Cave Junction
Saturday, October 8, 2011
8:00am

Committee Participants:

Craig Leech	Tim Nitz
Mike Fontenot	Arne Nyberg
Paul Ries	Molly McKnight
Nancy Appling	Jennifer Karpis
Al Tocchini	George Forbes

Absent:

Maynard Drawson	Peter McDonald
Charlotte Lehan	Andrew Smogor

Staff Participants:

Annie von Domitz	Madeline MacGregor
------------------	--------------------

Jennifer Karpis, Chair, convened the meeting at 8:05am

Approval of July 8, 2011 Minutes

The past meeting minutes contained several errors that will be corrected. Annie will work with Paul and Nancy to make the appropriate changes. Arne Nyberg moved that the minutes of the July 8, 2011 meeting be approved, with edits. George Forbes seconded the motion. The motion passed with no dissenting votes.

Shipley-Cook Nomination

Paul Ries moved the nomination for the Shipley-Cook Grove be brought to the table for discussion. Arne Nyberg seconded the motion. The motion passed with no dissenting votes.

Molly McKnight provided a map of the Shipley-Cook farm and the surrounding land, to orient the committee members with the location of the property. Molly reported the City of Lake Oswego Parks & Recreation Department is developing a master plan for the Luscher Farms area which includes Stevens Meadows. There is an existing parking area at Stevens Meadows that overlooks the Shipley-Cook Farmstead. A proposed trail would incorporate that overlook and pass along the boundary of the farm. The trees are visible from the overlook.

Molly said the grove of trees is already part of the Clackamas County Heritage Tree Program and the owner is interested in having the grove included in the state level program. Molly reported that Adam Shipley, the original owner of the farm, came to Oregon in 1850 over the Oregon Trail from Ohio. He opened up a stationary story which later became JK Gill. Shipley was a prominent member of the local community. He built the Shipley-Cook farm house in the 1860s. The house is listed on the National Historic Register and is recognized as a significant example of architecture from that era. In all of the historic register documents, the trees surrounding the house are mentioned as a significant historic feature of the property. Shipley had a strong interest in horticulture and planted the trees to enhance his farm property. He was important enough to be recognized at the Oregon Agriculture College (now Oregon State University), with a tree planting. The Douglas fir that was planted in his name did not survive and is no longer available to view on the campus.

George Forbes asked Molly to talk about the accessibility of the grove for viewing by the general public. Molly said the farm is private property and the owner would want people to view the grove from a viewpoint on the new trail that is being planned. The trail is not currently developed.

Arne Nyberg said that he is impressed because of the federal recognition of the home through the historic register. Arne also thinks there is a good agricultural history to tell at the farm. Mike Fontenot said that the area has had a battle of urban growth boundaries. It has undergone some enormous changes. Mike added that if the Cook family can keep the land going and not sell it to developers, it will be a bonus to the area. Molly said she would ask the owner what the future plans are for the property.

Craig Leech said the Shipley-Cook trees tell a good story about the “common” people who settled in the area and contributed to the history of Oregon. Al Tocchini added that Shipley did branch out with work through the Oregon Agriculture College and became important enough there to be recognized with a tree.

Paul Ries said that he is on the fence with this nomination. He feels the statewide significance is hard to get to for him, especially in connection with the trees. He asked if the nomination was saying that every tree surrounding the house is historic because the property is historic, or if we are only considering the trees that the Shipley’s planted. Molly said the owner has a fairly good idea about which trees were planted by the Cook family and which ones were planted by the Shipley family. The committee could separate the Cook family trees from the nomination. She also said the trees are mentioned in every obituary concerning the family and the farm, as well as in the nomination to the historic register. The historic register documents describe the trees as an important, contributing element of the farm.

Jennifer said she is concerned with the setting and the long term health of the trees. Some of the native trees surrounding the house are overtopping the trees planted by the Shipley and Cook families.

Tim Nitz said he feels like this story of immigration and homesteading is already told in other places through the program. He said that he is also on the fence regarding this nomination.

Nancy Applling stated that the nomination meets criteria two and three on the nomination score sheet:

- “The tree (or group of trees) is associated with the life of a person or group of historic significance.”
- “The tree (or group of trees) represents a significant and distinguishable entity within a community or location.”

Nancy said the planting of the trees at the Shipley farm was exemplary for the time, not necessarily now, but during this era it was unique.

The committee agreed that a group of committee members should go to the site and view the trees for themselves before making a decision. Molly will contact the owner to arrange a site visit for the committee.

Arne Nyberg made a motion that the Shipley-Cook grove nomination be tabled until the January committee meeting. George Forbes seconded the motion. The motion passed with no dissenting votes.

New Website

Madeline MacGregor, Chief Creative Strategist for Oregon Travel Experience (OTE), handed out some screen prints of the new agency website. She described some of the new features including a new heritage map, with detail pages and search features. She encouraged the committee members to explore the site and give her feedback. She said the website is still a work in progress and will be continued to be developed over the next two months. Madeline will be adding more content including photos and video. Jennifer Karps reported that she got an error message when trying to access the new site on Thursday. Madeline will look into the error when she returns to the office.

Madeline reported that she, Annie and Paul will be pursuing the development of a Heritage Tree photo contest, now that the new website has launched.

Camp Oregon Caves Port Orford Cedar Health

Tim Nitz suggested we follow the National Trust example and recognize orphaned or threatened sites. The National Trust makes a list of the 11 most endangered historic places each year. We currently have the Kloochoy Creek Sitka spruce, the Barlow Road Tollgate maple, and now possibly the Port Orford cedar as deceased or endangered trees. Tim suggested we take an opportunity yearly to talk about the threats to trees including disease and compaction. He said that he is more concerned about compaction at the Port Orford cedar site, than disease at this point.

Paul Ries said that trees are dynamic organisms that have a life cycle and are susceptible to threats. It is good to tell that story. Annie will look into ways to highlight "orphans" on our website and provide links to information about prevention steps that can be taken. She will follow up with the US Forest Service and the BLM to identify resources that can be linked to the website.

Old Business

A. Shore Acres

Craig Leech said he will follow up with Friends of Shore Acres regarding a tree nomination at Shore Acres. Nancy Appling had spoken with the ranger at Shore Acres, but the ranger has been unavailable due to family illness. She and Craig will continue to pursue the idea.

B. Barlow Road Tollgate Maple

Annie reported OTE was able to obtain and secure some of the wood from the Barlow Road Tollgate Maple which was removed as a hazardous tree. Arne said the OTE sign crew delivered several large sections from the trunk of the tree to Peter McDonald's barn. The wood is currently being stored in the barn on a large trailer. Arne sealed the ends of the wood to slow down the drying process so the wood can cure properly. He suggested leaving the wood for at least a year to let it dry out. Arne said if use the wood to create something that will be placed outdoors, we will need to seal it well to protect it from the elements. He said maple does not last well outside. Arne has gathered information about companies that can cut the wood into workable pieces when the committee is ready to use the wood.

Arne informed the committee that Al Tocchini is a wood carver. Arne suggested Al create a sculpture from the wood. Al said he could create something themed to the site. The sculpture could be a statue or a relief carving. Arne offered to sponsor a woodworking session for the committee at this wood shop at the coast.

Tim suggested coming up with something inauspicious, such as a light switch cover, which could be placed in the Capitol, the forestry center, or the museum at Timberline.

Paul suggested creating picture frames for the Heritage Tree photo contest winners which could then be displayed at the OTE offices.

Molly suggested we meet with local people in Clackamas County, where the tree was located, to determine what type of art to create and what the best location would be.

Updates and Reports

Reports from Members

Tim reported that he recently gave a tour of the Indian Village Grove to the Oregon Community Trees (OCT) Board. Tim suggested the Heritage Tree Committee look into having a joint meeting with OCT. Paul said that the OCT Board has meetings in March, June, September and December.

Paul reported he is working on a nomination for the Trysting tree at OSU.

Mike reported the Jenkins Estate will be celebrating its 100th anniversary next year. They will be promoting the event and sprucing up the grounds. The Jenkins Estate Elm grove was inducted into the Heritage Tree Program in 2010.

Craig reported that in 2012, the International Society of Arborists (ISA) will be holding its annual conference in Portland. He said the committee should look into ways of participating in the conference. Jennifer said that she will be participating in the conference through her work and suggested the committee submit a poster. Paul said that he sits on the ISA board and will look into ways the committee could hook into the conference, and will report back.

OTE/ TIC Report

George reported that the Travel Information Council has had a lot going on with the launch of the new Oregon Travel Experience (OTE) brand. George said the next meeting will be held in Yamhill in December 2011.

Maynard Drawson Update

Al stated he had not been able to see Maynard, since he was moved to a hospice care facility in Sublimity. If the committee members want to visit him at Marion Estates, he is accepting visitors. Al reported that Maynard continues to decline in health.

Next Meeting

The next Heritage Tree meeting has been scheduled for January 2011. Mike said he would check with Luscher Farm to see if there is space available for the meeting on January 21st or 27th. Luscher Farm is next door to the Shipley-Cook farm. The committee will decide on the April statewide dedication location at the January meeting.

Adjournment

Jennifer Karps adjourned the meeting at 9:39am.