

Oregon Heritage Tree Committee
Meeting Minutes
Luscher Farmhouse
Friday, January 27, 2012
1:00 pm

Committee Participants:

Craig Leech	Charlotte Lehan
Paul Ries	Arne Nyberg
Nancy Appling	Molly McKnight
Al Tocchini	Jennifer Karps
Peter McDonald	
Doug Grafe	

Absent:

Maynard Drawson	Andrew Smogor
Mike Fontenot	Tim Nitz
George Forbes	Angie Morris

Staff Participants:

Annie von Domitz	Jenn Smith
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Guests:

Rick Cook	Roger Brandt
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Jennifer Karps, Chair, convened the meeting at 1:05 pm

Self-introductions were made.

Approval of October 8, 2011 Minutes

The past meeting minutes contained two errors and one edit that will be corrected. Nyberg moved that the minutes of the October 8, 2011 meeting be approved, with edits. Appling seconded; the motion passed.

Shiple-Cook Nomination

McKnight reviewed why the Shiple-Cook trees have been nominated. Adam Shiple, the original owner of the farm, came to Oregon in 1852 over the Oregon Trail from Ohio and purchased the farm in 1900. The purchase included the house and 130 acres of surrounding property. The homestead is currently is 6 acres. He opened up a stationary store which later became JK Gill. Shiple was a prominent member of the local community. He built the Shiple-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. Shiple 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.

McKnight reminded the group that the nomination had been tabled at the October meeting. Nyberg suggested the motion be taken off the table for discussion.

Grafe commented that the Committee had seen several homesteads come through for nominations and was concerned that similar stories had already been told. However, he feels there is a good connection in reflection of the variety of trees on the property. Having said that, he still feels this story has already been told with other inducted trees and not necessarily sure it should be inducted.

Nyberg said he liked the variety of tree species on the property. He feels it is significant because of its variety and tells a better story than just the orchard, in addition the close proximity to the Portland area.

McKnight told the group that when the farmstead was nominated to be a Clackamas County landmark, it was noted that it was one of the best preserved farmsteads in Clackamas county, representing the history of the county.

Brandt suggested the grove seemed to be a collection or arboretum. It seems to lean towards something different than a Heritage Tree. He questioned if the time frame of the development of the original homestead coincided with the start of the Grange groups. It was noted that Shipley did donate land to the local Grange.

McKnight reported that in 1875 Shipley helped form the Lake Oswego Grange #175. Shipley was the first Oswego Grange Master. She also told the group of how Shipley was one of the first to have an interest in growing grapes in the Willamette Valley. There is still one of the original grapevines on the side of the house.

In addition, the farm is a Century Farm.

Brandt spoke about his admiration for the Committee to take the time to look at each nomination and consider the story behind it and how it is influential in Oregon history.

McDonald asked how Cook would feel about having public on his property. Cook replied that it would be appropriate to have a day in the spring and one again in the fall to invite the public to come look at the trees. These dates could be advertised on the HT website.

Lehan raised concerns about access to the public. Cook mentioned the possibility of an Agricultural Heritage Trail that could include the plaque identifying the grove which could be placed in Stephens meadow. Von Domitz said it could be possible to add an audio tour as well.

McKnight suggested that for the “every day viewer” the signage for the grove could be placed across the field at Stephens meadows, where there is a small parking area and a great view of some of the trees.

Grafe brought up the subject of the nominees having a state-wide impact. He expressed his concern that the story of the Oregon farmstead has been told with other trees that are already part of the program. Nyberg suggested that the difference between the ones already inducted and the Shipley-Cook nomination is that typically the already inducted trees are a single type of tree, where as this is a grove of different species. Nyberg expressed that in fact, that variety and amount of trees makes it special. Karps suggested that the each story should be taken into context, rather than a tree or trees being on a farmstead.

Appling expressed concern about how to tell this “huge” story on just a plaque. She asked if there was any possibility of getting funding for a larger plaque or board to be able to put more information. Cook said this was where the idea of an interpretive center could come into play with the Heritage Trail.

McDonald expressed that in the beginning of the discussion he was on the fence about having this grove as part of the program. However, with the connection to the Grange, he feels it would be an important addition and would like to see the Grange element be a part of the interpretation.

Grafe asked for a call of the question. Motion passed unanimously.

Smokejumper

Tocchini moved the nomination for the Smokejumper tree be brought to the table for discussion. McDonald seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Brandt gave an overview of the tree and the Smokejumper program. He told the Committee that this was the last remaining Smokejumper base from the original four. In addition, all of the trees along the runway at this

base were taken out, except this one. It is thought that this tree was saved to function as a telephone pole in approximately 1948.

Brandt informed the group that the base is on the national historic registry and is about to open a museum that will commemorate the history of the Smokejumper program.

Ries complimented Brandt on the well prepared nomination. Ries suggested that this tree and the Smokejumper Program was significant to by the western United States as a whole, not just the state.

Brandt told how the tree has helped define the positions of the original buildings, through photographs.

Leech asked if the museum and parking will have a negative impact on the tree and asked if there could be some assurance that it could be protected. Brandt said that is already been taken care of in the form of barriers.

Ries called for the question. Motion passed unanimously.

Rough and Ready

McDonald moved the nomination for the Rough and Ready forest be brought to the table for discussion. Nyberg seconded the nomination; motion passed.

Brandt said the origins of the Rough and Ready forest was preserved by the Illinois Valley Garden Club. The Club consisted of homemakers that self-educated themselves to use native plants for landscaping. The club was responsible for convincing the state of Oregon to install the wayside.

Brandt explained the uniqueness of the soil and drainage issues that lend to the small stature of the vegetation and trees.

Appling suggested this was also an educational site.

McDonald asked what the Oregon Heritage Tree program could tell about the forest that State of Parks could not. Brandt said the Parks office was significantly far away from the place he was suggesting for an interpretative sign and it would not make sense.

The discussion lead to whether or not this would be more of a geological and or botanical area of interest rather than a tree designation.

Ries asked for clarification on which portion the committee is being asked to designate. Appling clarified that the request was only for the area immediate area by the wayside.

Von Domitz suggested that through the Smokejumper interpretation, people could be directed to this wayside.

Karps called the question. The nomination failed on a vote of 3 in favor 7 against. Ries reminded Brandt that this was not a final decision and encouraged him to reapply with perhaps a different angle and brining more of a historical nature.

Trysting Tree

McDonald moved the nomination for the Trysting Tree be brought to the table for discussion. Nyberg seconded the nomination; motion passed.

Ries gave a brief history of the Trysting Tree and its tradition on the OSU campus. The tree got its name in 1901 after some students were admonished by the university President for meeting at the tree for romantic purposes.

In addition, the tree was memorialized in a poem and is mentioned in the university's alma mater. Ries noted the existing tree is not the original. It was replaced in 1987 by a cutting of the original tree that was developed by the university's horticultural department.

Ries told the Committee that a conference room at the university and a Corvallis golf course has been named after the tree. The tree is located in a historic district. It's near the first building built for the university.

There was some discussion if there might be a more magnificent or significant tree at the university that could be nominated. Ries suggested the story was one of unique points of the tree.

Karps called the question. The motion passed with 8 in favor, 1 against and Ries abstained.

Von Domitz asked the committee if the trees voted for approval today would be included in the 2012 class that would be dedicated in April 2012. The committee agreed they would like to include the nominees voted for today.

Shore Acres

McKnight seconded the nomination. Leech gave an overview of the property and reminded the committee that the original application was submitted in 2002. This current nomination was submitted by a Ranger at the State Park property.

Leech reminded the committee the historical significance the cove has to Oregon and its timber history. The property also has the second largest Monterey pines in Oregon. The packet also included a letter of support from one of the park's managers.

The history of the Simpson family and their impact on Oregon history was discussed. It was noted the application did not address this history.

Ries made the motion to table the discussion and request the submitter to add some additional information on the historical impact to Oregon. Grafe seconded; motion passed.

Statewide Dedication

Von Domitz requested input on the date and location for the statewide dedication. The Committee decided to hold the dedication on Friday, April 6th, 2012 at the Trysting tree on the OSU campus. This is the Friday of Arbor Week.

Ries asked when the Smokejumper museum will be opened and inquired whether or not that tree dedication could take place at the same time. Brandt suggested that it would work better to do it during a work day for the volunteers, June 22nd, 2012. The Committee agreed.

In addition, the committee decided to hold the Shipley-Cook Grove dedication in the fall.

Nyberg commended the nominations the committee received noting they were very well done.

Old Business

A. International Society of Arborist Conference

Ries asked if the committee if they wanted to do a poster for the conference, he would need to look into whether it is still possible. He announced the conference will take place August 11-15, 2012. Grafe expressed there will be a lot of interest in the Heritage Tree program at this conference. Ries said we may be able to get a link on the conference website. Von Domitz offered to use Madeline MacGregor, OTE Creative Strategist, as a resource to design the poster and Karps said she could print it on the large format printer at her office. It was decided the poster would be 4'x3'. Von Domitz requested the Committee send her input on what they would like to see the poster look like, she would work with MacGregor to get it designed.

Karps suggested that the text on the poster should describe what the Heritage Tree program is and how the selection process takes place.

B. Barlow Road Tollgate Maple

McDonald said the wood from the maple that was removed is about 14 feet long and there are 5 of them. Grafe said he has access to a mill for the wood. McKnight asked if the committee would like her to check with the museum in Sandy to inquire if they have any interest in the wood. Tocchini reminded the committee that they had also talked about using the wood for a historical marker. Lehan encouraged the group to “think outside the box” when deciding what to do with the wood.

Nyberg said he would take some photos of the wood and email them to the committee so they have a better idea of how much there is and then come up with ideas on what to do with it (photos are included).

Updates and Reports

Reports from Members

Ries reported that OSU is the only college this year to receive the Tree Campus USA award.

Lehan reported that she had found a photo of a group of people at Champoeg Park in front of the provisional Government Cottonwood.

Leech 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. Karps said that she will be participating in the conference through her work and suggested the committee submit a poster. Ries 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

Von Domitz reported that staff was in the process of working a bill through the legislative process that could increase the number of rest areas OTE managed. She also reported on the project with an OSU graduate student to assess the Grove of Trees at the Baldock rest area.

Maynard Drawson Update

Tocchini 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. Tocchini reported that Maynard continues to decline in health.

Next Meeting

The committee decided to have the April statewide dedication at the Trysting Tree on the OSU campus on April 6, 2012. It was agreed to have the next meeting at the Smokejumper dedication which will take place June 22, 2012.

Adjournment

Karps adjourned the meeting at 3:15 pm.