

FORESTRY COMMITTEE
Thursday, November 12th, 2020 @ 8:00 A.M.
Oconto City Hall Council Chambers

- 1.) Chairman Jeff Werner called the meeting to order @ 8:01 a.m.
- 2.) Roll Call: Tom Sasse, Jeff Werner, and Susan K. Seidl
- 3.) Absent: Nick Badendick
Also Present: Director of Forestry, Parks, and Rec. John Bostedt
- 4.) **Seidl issued approval of Agenda; Sasse witnessed the second. (3 Ayes)**
- 5.) **Approval of Meeting Minutes from 10/15/2020 with the correction of the closing time to 8:30 a.m. issued from a motion by Sasse and second of Werner. (3 Ayes)**
- 6.) Public Input: None.
- 7.) Correspondence: Director Bostedt stated that he personally presented City Plaques for past Forestry Committee service to both Lon Sohrweide and Don Denor.
 - a.) Northeastern WI Forest Health Update WI DNR concentrated on Ash trees as well as lowland water destruction, new diseases, and insects.
 - b.) Wisconsin Pollinators (e-mail) (2) The first issue concentrated on hoverflies vs. bees; flower parts and nectar; other pollinations; Part II of Beavers—Nature’s hydrologists; and understanding of soil in winter. The second issue gave view of turkeys, winter bee protection, rice; wood-wide-web trees and fungi (a new insight of what happens out-there). Each commented on the turkey quiz. Especially nice was a glossary of quizzes and articles/newsletters.
- 8.) Discussion/Recommendation/Action on the Following:
 - a.) A review of wording for the present ordinance for Dangerous, Obstructive, or Infected Trees continues at hesitation until City seasonal needs have been covered.
 - b.) Future Tree Planting Areas— Tabled.
 - c.) Trees Removed— Director Bostedt related a conflict on the finish of what had been started due to an early flagging of Winter Wonderland (@ 10 days earlier). Four trees have been tended: 3 to go.
 - d.) The 2021 Forestry Budget was approved as presented to Council.
 - e.) 2021 6th Grade Arbor Day Celebration Theme/Visit brought forth discussion on themes to be suggested @ the December meeting. Tabled.
 - f.) A Forestry Committee Mission Statement was presented by Director John Bostedt @ the 10/15/2020 meeting. Committee members feel it embraced the past and future intent of its work. **The Forestry Committee Mission Statement, written by Director John Bostedt:**
--The City of Oconto Forestry, with the Park and Recreation Department and Public Works Department is to manage the urban forest; to enhance the current and future environmental quality, safety, and aesthetics for the benefit of our community— was accepted as presented via Sasse with Werner support. (M/C)
 - g.) Alternative to Ash Trees for the Urban Landscape was discussed from the 7. i.) Webinar. Especially informative was that 20% of trees only should be planted of the same type. The Committee will retain the article as it proves a useful reference.
 - h.) Buying High Quality Trees also was an issue from the Webinar. Its worthy information had public readability. Burlap ball vs. bare root planting were discussed. Soil choice needs to be appropriate to the tree and area being planted, especially in the fragile bare root.
 - i.) The 2020 Urban Forestry Webinar gave the Forestry Committee much literature to consume. Some proved this team has been on the right track for several years. Others issued new ideas and insights like what to consider before planting a tree. Seidl emphasized the bare root gravel bed being ideal over a balled /burlap tree as it creates healthy root increase and flair ideal for planting.
- 9.) Next Meeting Date/Time: Thursday, December 10 @ 8 a.m.
Agenda Items: Future Tree Planting Areas; and 2021 6th Grade Arbor Day Celebration Theme
- 10.) **Seidl summoned adjournment @ 8:32 a.m. Sasse witnessed a second. (M/C)**

Minutes submitted by
Susan K. Seidl