

Minutes of the Forestry Committee held on February 17th, 2021

- 1.) Call meeting to order by Chairman Jeff Werner at 8:00 a.m.
- 2.) Roll Call: Members Present: Tom Sasse and Jeff Werner. Excused: Sue Seidl. Others Present: John Bostedt, Director of Forestry, Parks, and Recreation.
- 3.) Approval of Agenda: **Motion by Sasse second by Werner to approve of the agenda as presented.**
2 ayes M/C
- 4.) Approval of Meeting Minutes from 1/20/2021: **Motion by Werner second by Sasse to approve of the meeting minutes from 1/20/2021 as presented.**
2 ayes M/C
- 5.) Public Input: None.

****Nick arrived at 8:03 a.m.****

- 6.) Correspondence:
 - a.) Northeastern WI Forest Health Update WI DNR (January): Talked about the fog freezing on the trees and basically everything else in January. The rest of the publication seemed to be repeated articles.
 - b.) Wisconsin Pollinators (February 2nd It's Groundhog Day): Jeff and Sasse took the Groundhog quiz, like most quizzes in this publication, and scored highly. Nothing else notable about the publication.
 - c.) Wisconsin Arbor Day E-News: New publication sent to John. Not sure if monthly or bi-monthly. Online articles vs paper is better for the trees.
 - d.) Wisconsin Urban Wood January 2021 Newsletter: No input.
 - e.) Rainbow Tree Care (Upcoming Webinars): No input.
- 7.) Discussion/Recommendation/Action on the Following:
 - a.) Review wording of present ordinance for Dangerous, Obstructive, or Infected Trees: Next meeting agenda item.
 - b.) Future Tree Planting Areas: No input.
 - c.) Trees Removed: The Forestry Department went into the parks and made a list and marked all the problematic and rotten trees that needed to be taken down. Copper Culture, City Park, and the Campgrounds are almost done. In Spring, Summer, or Fall they will go back in and remove the stumps. There are a few more trees that need to be taken down, some still having Winter Wonderland decorations on them. With the below zero temperatures and freezing, the department hasn't been able to take it all down yet.
 - d.) 2021 6th Grade Arbor Day Celebration Theme/Visit/Planting/Poster Contest Rules: Jeff Werner has reached out to Jill Hermsen and Amy Remington regarding their participation in the event. Waiting on a reply from them. He is assuming they want to be involved. Leaning towards doing an outside event as well as a Poster contest. Masks will be mandatory for the outdoor event. There will also be educational materials provided on things such as tree planting and pruning as well as EAB (Emerald Ash Bore). As for the planting event, continuing on Main Street mainly by the bare railroad tracks as well as replacing the 4-5 White Japanese Lilacs that were damaged was mentioned. The education portion will begin at Copper Culture Park, where the students will be separated into 3 groups to do the activity. Jeff brought his 2020 copy of the Rules and copies were handed out to the committee members. Everything will be finalized at the next Forestry meeting.
 - e.) Forestry Committee Mission Statement (Is on City Website: www.cityofoconto.com): John informed everyone that the mission statement is now viewable on the city's website. Jeff mentioned that this was important to have as a reminder to help "re-gear thoughts".

- f.) Meacham Nursery Spring 2021 Availability Packet: Sasse mentioned that there was a good selection and John pointed out that there were many new varieties now available. The committee discussed the troubles in previous years retrieving the trees from the lot, but John explained this is par for all nurseries he's visited.
- g.) Urban Forestry Management Plan Practices Packet: This packet included mainly ideas and starting points for new projects. Mostly regarding emergency plans for problematic weather and storms. John explained those resolutions start with Jeremy Wusterbarth and the Street Department, so this packet didn't really apply to the Forestry Committee too much. It did mention Tree Inventory and alternatives, which was discussed in the next bullet point.
- h.) Updating the City Tree Inventory: The Committee is hoping to have a professional tree inventory done this year. The last inventory was done in 2010. It was discussed whether to go with the company used in 2010 that would have a starting point with previous information, or finding a new company that would have to start over from scratch. John made two phone calls looking for prices and is waiting for calls back. Tree inventories are expensive and it has been voted down in the budget meeting in previous years.
- i.) 2021 Tree City Growth Award Update (to be handed out at meeting): This packet talks about points for upgrading and adding. Applies more to larger communities, not smaller ones like ours. Will be discussed further at next Forestry Committee meeting.
- j.) 2020 Tree City Recertification Application: John let everyone know that he filled out the application and sent it in with the \$35 donation.
- k.) 2021 Annual Urban Forestry Conference (Virtual) February 21st, 22nd, and 23rd (to be handed out at meeting): The conference this year will be virtual. It still provides credit for Tree City. The big screen will be set up in the Council Chambers for those attending to watch together. Differently this year, the cost to register isn't per person, it is instead per streaming location. Therefore this year will be significantly cheaper than previous years, John will be using the difference in funds to supply a lunch for the members attending. It was agreed that Monday had the best topics and would be the day to attend.

8.) Next Meeting Date/Time/Agenda Items: Wednesday, March 10th, 2021 at 8:00 a.m.

- Agenda Items:
1. Review wording of present ordinance for Dangerous, Obstructive, or Infected Trees
 2. Finalize 2021 6th Grade Arbor Day Theme/Visit/Planting/Posters
 3. 2021 Tree City Growth Award

9.) Adjournment: **Motion by Sasse second by Badendick to adjourn @ 8:46 a.m.**

3 ayes M/C

Meeting minutes submitted by: Brittney Bickel, Utility Clerk