

FORESTRY COMMITTEE
Friday, August 6th, 2021 @ 8:00 A.M.
Oconto City Hall Council Chambers

- 1.) Committee Chairman Sasse called the meeting to order @ 8:07 a.m.
- 2.) Roll Call: Tom Sasse, Susan K. Seidl, and Jeff Werner
Absent: Nick Badendick
Also Present: Director of Forestry, Parks and Rec. John Bostedt; Superintendent of Public Works Jeremy Wusterbarth
- 3.) **Seidl motioned for approval of Agenda; Werner motioned second. (3 Ayes)**
- 4.) **Approval of Meeting Minutes from 7/16/2021 issued from Werner with a second of Sasse. (M/C)**
- 5.) Public Input: Director Bostedt reported that an Oak fell @ City Park- on a swing set- and crushed it. A Birch also downed on Copper Culture Way: we take care of the tree whereas the REA took care of the electrical issue. All other park cleanup has been completed. With this Summer's damaging storms, nothing can rush a continuous job. Residents cannot place limbs/branches/etc. in the street without receiving a citation. Neighborly actions are in order. Brush is not a Recycling Center dumping ground.
- 6.) Correspondence:
 - a.) Northeastern WI Forest Health Update WI DNR was not available @ this time of the meeting.
 - b.) Wisconsin Pollinators provided us with knowledge of how hard it is to preserve the precious commodities of native fruit trees (apple, mulberry, black cherry, pin cherry, Downy Serviceberry, and American and Canadian plum) which thrive better along the lakeshores and bottom of the State. Weather too is a factor. Also noted was the Stinging Nettle; tree heat stress and reduction; sandy soil properties; collecting and storing seeds; eggshells in the garden; and once again... a challenge with the earthworm quiz. A second issue covered "the plant no one wants" poison ivy that thrives on carbon dioxide (which can be detrimental to forests and native vegetation AND its warning not-to-burn); the Cuckoo Bumble Bee; lightening and nitrogen; more about earthworms and native grasses; bananas in the garden; safe ways to control ants; and a flower pollination quiz. Discussion centered around our, lessons learned, successful plantings
 - c.) Article: "Porch Songs" by Philip Gulley in the July/August 2021 Saturday Evening Post was seen as a light but significant view of how we are losing our natural environment... beginning with the grasses and native plants along our roadsides and ending in our manicured yards. It was noted by the Committee that nature-in-the-air has lessened in 2021.
- 7.) Discussion/Recommendation/Action on the Following:
 - a.) Review wording of present ordinance for Dangerous, Obstructive, or Infected Trees led the Committee to expect changes in the Ordinance by the team of Forestry and Public Works Directors. Directors, Wusterbarth and Bostedt, have volleyed residential calls. Often, says Wusterbarth, issues arise from new ownership which is met with immense female Cottonwood and dying trees within their new property. Such vast removal is costly yet still needs to be addressed. New ownership also creates problems with a lack of knowledge about what can be done on the property, including the terrace. (A recent incidence met with 2 Kentucky trees planted within the last 3 years, removed by the unaware owner.) The City is a source of answers which residents should seek first. Meantime the Committee will read the existing wording and when the Directors return with the document; a meaningful amendment will be determined within the Ordinance. Approval will be passed on to Council.
 - b.) Future Tree Planting Areas remains an ongoing issue addressed when needed. (2 Kentucky Coffee and a couple Japanese Lilac trees are already on the list.)
 - c.) Trees Removed— Note Public Input. Storm felled trees are this summer's work.
 - d.) 2021 Tree City Growth Award Update will be addressed at an upcoming meeting.
 - e.) Other City Website Ideas for the Forestry Page are a continual agenda item.

f.) Drafting of a letter to DOT (WI) concerning roadside planting with an emphasis on native plants is a concern of this Committee that will be studied by each member who will create a list to be used @ the next meeting in the document.

8.) Next Meeting Date/Time: Wednesday, September 15 @ 8 a.m.

Agenda Items: 2021 Tree City Growth Award Update

Drafting of a letter to DOT (WI) concerning roadside planting with an emphasis on native plants

9.) Werner summoned adjournment 8:59 a.m. Seidl witnessed the second. (M/C)

Minutes submitted by Susan K. Seidl