

FORESTRY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, June 29th, 2022 @ 8:00 A.M.

Oconto City Hall Council Chambers

1. The June meeting was brought to order by Chairman Tom Sasse @ 8:06 a.m.
2. Roll Call: Tom Sasse, Susan K. Seidl, Jeff Werner
Absent: Nick Badendick
Also Present: Mayor John Panetti; John Bostedt Director of Park, Rec., and Forestry
3. **Seidl motioned for approval of Agenda; Werner called second.(3 Ayes)**
4. **Approval of Meeting Minutes from 05/04/2022 was submitted by Werner with a follow-up second of Sasse.**
5. Public Input: Sasse noted compliments on Arbor Day trees planted throughout Harbor Rd.
6. Correspondence:
 - a. Northeastern WI Forest Health Update - WI DNR (5/12/2022) Within we were informed on seeking to control EAB (Sasse pointed out land owner tree donation potential seeking to raise some parasites that will combat the infection); Oak wilt as it continues @ risk; April showers and Garlic Mustard—the invasive species; and that Thousand Combers disease of Walnut is not as threatening as anticipated.
 - b. Wisconsin Pollinators – ((2) Dandelion Recipes 5/1/2022) Although this issue had some repetition, it contained several informative articles including the recipes; Save the Bees with “No Mow May”; Native bee parasites; spring perennial fertilization; WI native grasses; a fertilizer quiz; how butterflies see the world; and WI Events. (Springtime Ants 5/15/2022) The second issue also contained knowledge on bee stings: facts and treatments; WI native snakes; spring lawn care; WI native violets; Garter Snake quiz; do-it-yourself butterfly feeders; and again the new feature of WI Events.
 - c. BCA Card— A thank you was shared by the Committee: it extended appreciation for the experience and knowledge, as well as memory trees planted by students involved. They mentioned that these are intentional efforts to sustain our forests have made impact.
7. Discussion/Recommendation/Action on the Following:
 - a. **Future Tree Planting Areas**— It is felt that replacement of dying trees may take precedence. Mott Street plantings are looking questionable: street work there might have compromised them. Noted was attention to west Main Street. Mayor Panetti sought procedure on planting selection: Bostedt explained that road construction opens opportunity and additionally we look yearly at City areas that are in need: Park Avenue trees by the Historical Society are going to have to come down: replacement would prove to be an appropriate area. It was felt that Arbor Day with 6th graders posed a new but successful spread of distance for our young planters. The Committee agreed that this was a most successful year with class involvement.
 - b. **Other City Website Ideas for Forestry Page**— Sasse took photos of the Arbor Day(s) activity, as well as Werner. Both will see that Bostedt is sent the 2022 snaps: the latter will print them accordingly.

- c. **Sharp Park (Select Cut/Buckthorn/Clean Up)** Sasse brought a handout on 7 ways to effectively remove Buckthorn, which Committee members received. This is a major issue within the park and is begging to be solved ASAP since the longer it is ignored the wider and more settled the spread. Although ideally the Committee has been seeking a non-chemical method as solution, Mayor Panetti in discussion with Al Stranz/DNR retiree suggested we cut late in the year, and hit the Buckthorn with recommended chemical late fall: when the ground is frozen, says Sasse. (This may involve City closing of the park trails for a minimal time.) Stranz gave present names therein that could serve as a source of knowledge in this area. Sasse suggested we also contact County Forestry for other suggestions: perhaps they would have extended knowledge as to what proves most effective. (Director Bostedt will make contact.) A walkthrough from one of their employees could offer more advice. Sasse rested on a plan: this winter cut: then hold off until late next fall freeze to attack the Buckthorn. Werner did a walkthrough of the park noting that trees within need attention: multiple storms have made some challenge to the trails: fallen trees and potential broken branch drop. Panetti wanted to know of present safety within the park, which is hard to determine: this too will be a question for County Forestry: they could make a recommendation on these issues. Our older trees were compromised throughout the last storm with 65–70 m.p.h. winds.
- d. **Review of 2022 Plantings**— OMS/BCA As stated in a., we felt 2022 was a most successful year. Next year we will be faced with other issues as BCA will no longer be in operation and our key contact at the middle school will be in another position. It was felt that pre-digging was an asset to the energy and interest of students.
- e. **2022 Poster Contest Displays**— Members took down last year's posters and tacked this year's Arbor Day posters to the City Hall corridor wall (approx. 1 hour) after adjournment.

Bostedt reminded the Committee that any additions to the agenda can be called into City Hall before the next meeting.

- 8. Next Meeting Date/Time: Thursday, July 14 @ 8 a.m.
Agenda Item: Sharp Park (Select Cut/Buckthorn/Clean Up)
- 9. **Sasse summoned adjournment @ 9:01 a.m. (M/C)**

Minutes submitted by
Susan K. Seidl