

**FORESTRY COMMITTEE**  
**Wednesday, August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022 @ 8:00 A.M.**  
Oconto City Hall Council Chambers

- 1.) August 24, 2022, Chairman Tom Sasse called the meeting to order @ 8:02 a.m.
- 2.) Roll Call: Nick Badendick (+8:04), Tom Sasse, Susan K. Seidl, Jeff Werner  
Also Present: John Bostedt Director of Park, Rec., and Forestry; Superintendent of Public Works Jeremy Wusterbarth
- 3.) **Werner called motion for approval of Agenda; Seidl followed with the second. (3 Ayes)**
- 4.) **Approval of Meeting Minutes from 07/14/2022 were submitted by Werner with a Sasse second. (3Ayes)**

5.) Public Input: Wusterbarth announced that Sharp Park will be on his work schedule fall through winter. First will be the perimeter of the park. He stated that his crew rotates throughout the parks according to the summer needs. It has been determined that Wusterbarth and Bostedt will ID dead trees in Sharp Park that eventually the Superintendent's crew will take down. County Forestry viewed the park but only made suggestions and stated that they were not available for the work. They informed that fencing won't keep people out of the area: the same safety issues exist in County territory. Their conclusion led to a clean-up rather than select cut: most of the damage has accumulated from area storms. They too alluded to a logging company doing the work would take more than the dead trees and leave total clean-up for at least 2 years.

- Meantime, last Saturday morning the Boy Scouts filled wood chips in exterior areas at Sharp Park that allowed the work. After Sharp Park is finished by the City crew... the chipping will be completed along the trails.
- Wusterbarth suggested we apply for a DNR Grant that would accomplish a complete City inventory, suggestion list, and list of types of trees existing.
- Sasse got an e-mail from Tree City USA as to a potential session in Nov. with on-line registration and attendance virtually: Community Forestry Conference.

6.) Correspondence:

a.) Northeastern WI Forest Health Update - WI DNR (7/12/2022) This issue included Summer of Sponge Moth (aka Gypsy Moth) within the next 2 years due to hot-dry weather; Northwest WI conifers and hardwoods are hail affected; how to tell the difference between Giant Hogweed and Cow Parsnip; North American EAB is 20 years old; defoliation caused by native Leafroller moth/early season; Leaf beetles and Tiers; Sticky Lecarium Scale- sap sucking insects; Spruce and Balsam Fir Budworm defoliation outbreaks (every 30-50 years); Spiny Oak Sawfly and Red Oak defoliation common in the understory... this year seen in the overstory. Also included were available Forest Health presentations. *Members of the Committee highlighted various issues including infestations and Sasse's observance of Oak Wilt and EAB within 20 miles of Oconto.*

(8/10/2022) The DNR is in process of a new Forest Health Specialist hiring in our area. Among articles in the August issue were: Red Oak Tree crowns, evident this summer, are beneficial in attraction to sunlight and insect damage; Beech leaf disease is spreading; Pine Sawyer Beetles are attacking conifers which are already damaged and stressed; White Pines in counties are experiencing disease and thinning... investigation blames cool wet weather... treat trees infected by increasing their lower branch airflow; Japanese Beetles skeleton-ize leaves causing significant defoliation making trees vulnerable; Tubakia Leaf spot disease mimics Oak Wilt... it is affecting lower leaves this year. Also included were available Forest Health presentations.

b.) Wisconsin Pollinators –Growing Corn is Changing the Climate (7/24/2022) via transpiration which cools the plant and surrounding air, increasing the atmospheric water returning it as rain; Bloodroot; How to stop

beehive robbery; WI butterfly parks and gardens; the Earthworm quiz and Earthworm benefits; and WI's largest moth... the nocturnal Luna moth.

All about Wisconsin Badgers (our State symbol) (8/7/2022) spoke of their **benefit in controlling rodent populations and in providing burrow refuge habitat for burrowing owls, which also help to control small mammal populations. They are digging machines. A quiz accompanies.** Known as our most "celebrated insect" the firefly; native Asters; monthly bee keeping; Bumble Bee ID; and how butterflies flutter were all included in this issue.

**7.) Discussion/Recommendation/Action on the Following:**

- a.) Future Tree Planting Areas— Wusterbarth thought Harbor Rd. has a few more areas available. He noted Jones Ave. will need trees between Adams and Washington next year. We already listed the replanting on Main, and the Beyer Home. Finally suggested was Holtwood sporting complex which could use shade on diamond 4.
  - b.) Other City Website Ideas for Forestry Page— It was suggested to alert the public to Sharp Park downed trees and clean-up ahead, suggesting use of our other parks: this should be included on the City page as well.
  - c.) Storm Damaged Trees— Superintendent Wusterbarth would like to see an added ordinance for downed trees on citizen property: he will draft and bring the finished product to the Committee. We also could clean up (update, delete, add to) our ordinances.
  - d.) Sharp Park (Select Cut/Buckthorn/Clean Up) According to the County Forestry a select cut is not needed in Sharp Park, identifying most of the issue as storm damage. They suggested we do so in-house. County Forestry also noted that the park is covered by insurance, just as their locations are.
- 8.) Next Meeting Date/Time: ***Tuesday, September 13 @ 8 a.m. Note budget packet.***

**9.) Seidl summoned adjournment @ 8:41 a.m. Badendick witnessed second. (4 Ayes)**

Minutes submitted by  
Susan K. Seidl