

FORESTRY COMMITTEE

Tuesday October 10th, 2023 @ 8:00 A.M.
Oconto City Hall Council Chambers

1.) The October Forestry Committee meeting was called to order by Chairman Tom Sasse @ 8:05 a.m.

2.) Roll Call: Tom Sasse, Susan K. Seidl, Jeff Werner

ABSENT: Nick Badendick

ALSO Present: Director of Parks, Rec. and Forestry John Bostedt, Diane Motiff

3.) **Seidl motioned for approval of Agenda; Werner issued second. (3 Ayes)**

4.) **Approval of Meeting Minutes from 09/20/2023 was called into motion by Sasse with a Werner second. (3 Ayes)**

5.) Public Input: None. It was revealed that the hanging baskets of flowers on Main St. are given multiple compliments, often by tourists. The baskets are thereafter given to requesting citizens of Oconto: in 5 years, requests have increased to almost all of them. Geese deterrents were discussed

6.) Correspondence:

a.) Northeastern WI Forest Health Update - WI DNR has not been received as yet.

b.) Wisconsin Pollinators – “Where do butterflies go in winter?” 10/01/2023 ...had several points shared by Werner: Diapause is the delay in development during periods of adverse environmental conditions. The strategy is a means of surviving predictable, unfavorable environmental conditions. Butterflies can enter diapause, freeze, and live through winter temps well below 32 degrees F. Butterfly bodies contain chemical compounds called glycols which prevent ice crystals and... if they form, the butterflies would die.

Monarchs, living up to 9 months, are the only butterflies that make a migration, like birds. In October the Monarchs will travel 3,000 miles or more to their overwintering site: most butterflies do not live that long. West of the Rockies they go to small grove trees in CA near Santa Cruz and San Diego. East of the Rockies millions of Monarchs find their way to their sites in Mexico.

Bostedt and Sasse also noted a return here of butterflies and bees this year vs the last 3 years.

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

a.) Future Tree Planting Areas have been established to date, however another area has been stated by Bostedt (Madison St.) between Park Ave. and Jefferson.

b.) Other City Website Ideas for Forestry Page– City Tree & Shrub Ordinances have once again been posted.

c.) Sharp Park– Director Bostedt and the Street Dept. have removed 3 more dead trees.

d.) Meeting For Grants 2024 –(Buckthorn) We are anticipating finishing paperwork from Stephine’s new find concerning the Grant for which we are eligible. (Information for it is provided by Bostedt.) Administrator Burrue’s signature will start the Grant process.

e.) Up-date on Nuisance Trees– For 5 months the City has had an issue on Pecor St. The owner is looking for a deal. Hopefully this has been resolved. All else is caught up.

f.) Fall Planting 2023 will be accomplished by the City crew. Unfortunately all outdoor work has reached the winterization process. No school involvement will result: Werner will contact the 7th and 6th grade teachers. NOTE: The crew has also planted 7 new trees since our last meeting.

g.) **2024 Forestry Budget** has been accepted by Administrator Burruehl who has seen fit to approve it: she too thought the carryover a worthy necessity.

h.) Tree City USA Recertification- 2023 paperwork should arrive by the end of the month: it needs to be sent to the State by Dec. 31st. ***The City of Oconto has been awarded "Tree City" 22 consecutive years*** which gives us an additional sign.

i.) 2024 WAA/ WI DNR Annual Urban Forestry Conference has not sent its info yet, however, it will be in Green Bay.

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

9.) **Seidl summoned adjournment @ 8:46 a.m. Werner motioned second. (M/C)**

Minutes submitted by
Susan K. Seidl