

MINUTES OF THE FORESTRY COMMITTEE
on Thursday August 8th, 2024 @ 8:00 A.M. in the Oconto City Hall Council Chambers

1. Committee Chairman, Tom Sasse, called the meeting to order @ 8:11 a.m.
2. Roll Call: Tom Sasse, Susan K. Seidl, Jeff Werner ALSO present: John Bostedt/Director of Parks, Rec., and Forestry; Mayor C. Martin; and Diane Motiff Absent: Nick Badendick
3. **Seidl motioned for approval of Agenda; Sasse witnessed a second. (3 Ayes)**
4. **Approval of Meeting Minutes from 7/10/2024 was called into motion after the correction by Director Bostedt of 7. a. reading “also this spring we added trees to Jones Ave.” by Sasse with a second of Werner. (3 Ayes)**
5. Public Input: Director Bostedt distributed beverage can holders and 2 Park, Rec. and Forestry pens, compliments of the Department to members of the Committee.
6. Correspondence:
 - a. Northeastern WI Forest Health Update - WI DNR (July 2024 Part 2 of 2) Spongy Moth update tells us that the effects are not as severe as 2023. Also noted were new insects. Cicada have damaged sections in the southern part of WI.
 - b. Wisconsin Pollinators – We have had no update in 9 months: is this no longer issued?
 - c. Wisconsin DNR Info- OutWiGo-To the Wisconsin State Fair Members read the last article and Seidl attended the Fair, also recommending it. Sasse and Werner updated us on the proper use of firewood articles, and Basswood (tree) Thrips which is attacking its leaves.
7. **Discussion/Recommendation/Action on the Following:**
 - a. *Future Tree Planting Areas* have been established.
 - b. Presently there are no other *City Website Ideas for Forestry Page*.
 - c. *Sharp Park’s* dying trees have been eliminated and the trails cleared from our windy limb fall summer.
 - d. *Grants for Buckthorn (2024)* The USDA referred Director Bostedt to Ken, our County Agent. With his recent call we discovered Ken will investigate and check out his resources. Bostedt has been waiting for other return calls.
 - e. *Up-date on Nuisance Trees*– Plenty of interest: Sharp Park, a 4th street Ash, and several calls on neighbor tree growth beyond an owner’s property; as well as questions on how to I.D. dying trees and what to do thereafter. Director Bostedt is working with Superintendent of Public Works, Jeremy Wusterbarth.
 - f. *Motus Project Bird Friendly Plants* have been established @ City Park by Bird City Mentor, Cordula Vanden Heuvel. Now we need to keep them weeded: volunteer Diane Motiff has accomplished an outstanding job to date. Also comments were made on our roundabouts, 1

of which needs *constant volunteer tending*. At present, after weeding, it presents a pleasant Highway 22 experience.

g. *Up-date on Newly Planted Trees*– Early prevention is the answer. Near the R.R. tracks on Main we see heat stress: sandy soil? (also, the back side of Mott) Our Tractor Supply planting of Crab Apples has been most successful.

h. *Up-date trees planted within the last 3 years*– See above.

g. Patricia Lindquist is our *new Urban Forestry Coordinator for the City of Oconto area*. (NE Wisconsin) Informational. ***Bostedt announced Tracey/DNR has retired.

g. *Informational handouts from 2024 WAA/WI DNR Forestry Conference* were received @ the July meeting. No questions were asked but they widened knowledge on what is-and what is-being-done.

g. *USDA Forestry Service Tree Owner's Manual*– This is a useful resource from the Conference.

8. Next Meeting Date/Time: Wednesday, September 11 @ 8 a.m.

9. **Seidl summoned adjournment @ 8:47 a.m. Werner witnessed the second. (M/C)**

Minutes submitted by Susan K. Seidl