

MINUTES OF THE FORESTRY COMMITTEE
Wednesday September 11th, 2024 @ 8:00 A.M.
Oconto City Hall Council Chambers

1. The September meeting was called to order by Chairman Tom Sasse @ 8:10 a.m.
2. Roll Call: Nick Badendick, Tom Sasse, Susan K. Seidl, Jeff Werner ALSO present: John Bostedt/Director of Parks, Rec., and Forestry; and Diane Motiff
3. **Werner motioned for approval of Agenda with addition of the 7. H. addendum; Seidl witnessed a second. (4 Ayes)**
4. **Approval of Meeting Minutes from 8/8/2024 was called into motion by Sasse with a second of Werner. (4 Ayes)**

5. Public Input: Director Bostedt reported 8 residents with Tent Caterpillar issues: all but one the City crew can destroy: the latter is in a tree @ 40' in a tight area which requires the resident to call in a bug eliminator.

6. Correspondence:

A. Northeastern WI Forest Health Update - WI DNR (8/15/2024) The issue reported more damaging insects. Sasse noted the Elm Zigzag Sawfly and State-wide damage of the Emerald Ash Borer in its process of 16 years. Badendick wondered why solutions, which are coming, are so slow. Sasse stated that the Borer will eventually starve themselves out (in 50 years) and kill 99% of the mature Ash trees... but enough will remain to begin again. Also noted by Werner was Oak Wilt, in fall emerging again.

B. Wisconsin Pollinators – none. It has been several months since the publication last appeared: Director Bostedt e-mailed the new representative to inquire as to its future.

C. Wisconsin DNR Info- Fall Issue- Hyped for the autumn colors (9/3/2024) There will be an online fall color report by County.

7. Discussion/Recommendation/Action on the Following:

A. *Future Tree Planting Areas*– Pecor's west end was suggested by Werner. Main Street's west end's few bare canopy trees, caused by a soil issue, will eventually grow above the bare branches. They continue to be subject to heat stress and will be subject to fall earlier.

B. *Other City Website Ideas for Forestry Page*– None.

C. *Sharp Park*– Director Bostedt reported that dead and dying trees have been marked. Some of the wood is being taken via a permit. The local Boy Scouts will distribute wood chips throughout the trails, as well as there is a potential Community Service project.

D. *Grants for Buckthorn (2024)* We have had no County update, and Tabby has had no website hits on the subject. Director Bostedt contacted Jeff Maroszek on the issue: Jeff has a County District Conservation position.

E. *Update on Nuisance Trees*– Superintendent Wusterbarth and Director Bostedt have been on a follow up, with 5 more resident calls to go. Established Ordinances do cover many of these issues.

F. *Update on Newly Planted Trees*– The Committee sees this as a successful season to date.

G. *Update trees planted within the last 3 years*– So far, they have gotten through the dry spell with extra watering... on west Mott as well.

H. *The 2025 Proposed Budget* was distributed by Director Bostedt. The Department of Forestry, Parks and Rec. NEEDS 2 new trucks. The City is looking into a lease/maintenance agreement. **Seidl motioned to accept the 2025 Proposed Budget including the carryover of the balance in the 2024 budget's remaining balance as presented and send it on to Council. Werner motioned second. (M/C)**

NOTE: *We also need to pay more attention to our mowers which are used approx. 8 hrs. per day. It would be wise if we could afford manufacturer hours recommended maintenance, rather than grind them by only affording July maintenance.

*Also, the City Council should be aware that Oconto has not had a Tree Study done since 2010 (recommended every 5 years).

8. Next Meeting Date/Time: Thursday, Oct. 10 @ 8:00 a.m.

9. Adjournment was summoned by Werner @ 9:16 a.m. Badendick witnessed the second. (M/C)

Minutes submitted by Susan K. Seidl