

MINUTES OF THE FORESTRY COMMITTEE

Wednesday July 16, 2025 @ 8:00 A.M.

Oconto City Hall Council Chambers

- 1.) Chairman Tom Sasse called the meeting to order @ 8:08 a.m.
- 2.) Roll Call: Diane Motiff, Tom Sasse, Wendy Spice; ABSENT Nick Badendick; ALSO PRESENT Advisory member Jeremy Wusterbarth
- 3.) **Motiff called approval of Agenda; Spice issued second. (3 Ayes)**
- 4.) **Approval of Meeting Minutes from 06/17/2025 was motioned by Motiff with a second of Spice. (M/C)**
- 5.) Public Input: Seidl gave Sasse some Arbor Day info that could be used in the future, including on the website. Sasse distributed WI Legislation that seeks the Monarch as our State official butterfly although it has had a severe population decline due to habitat loss, pesticide use and climate change. He also distributed an article that identifies the difference between invasive Lupine, hybrids, and native Lupine.

6.) Correspondence:

a.) Northeastern WI Forest Health News – WI DNR (June, 2025 7/7/2025) Updates:

- New DNR team
- Anthracnose infecting hardwood leaves
- Armillaria Root Disease
- Gall causes bull's-eye spots on Maple leaves: the damage is cosmetic
- Dusky Birch Sawfly larvae defoliate leaves: problematic on young seedlings
- Veiled Polypore fungi growing on recently dead red pine: Red Pine Bark, Balsom, Hemlock, & Tamarack
- Heavy seed crop leads to thin tops on Maples: a couple years to recover
- Non-native caterpillars attacking Euonymus defoliated shrubs: a 1 year issue– Sasse shared personal experience.
- Tan Tamaracks could be Larch Casebearers that can weaken the trees
- Maple Petiole Borer Sawfly causing leaf drop but naturally controllable
- DNR debuts fact sheet on White Grubs
- Yellow Needles on White Pines a natural 2-3 year recovery
- Wild Cucumber spread: not necessarily harmful
- Winsome Fly biocontrol slows Japanese beetles– Obviously, a positive in WI.
- Wooly Elm Aphid causes Elm leaves to curl: chemical control is not necessary

Spice spoke of an application from the DNR Urban Forestry Grant which could be used toward Sharp Park: Sasse will look into it. At this point, most grants require = City funding. Who could we use as a Grant writer? A second issue he will look @ is school (4th graders) involvement with tree donations and planting of seedlings.

b.) Wisconsin Pollinators – Pollinator Week 2025- June 16-22. Information included was from “Bumble Bee Brigade” within which are surveys and conservation work with Native trees, host plants, shelter, & freedom from harmful pesticides.

c.) Wisconsin DNR Info- none.

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

- a.) Other City Website Ideas for Forestry Page– Perhaps it is time to once again promote our City Hall Memorial tree donations.
- b.) Update on Nuisance Trees– Wusterbarth spoke of his crew cutting 8 down with a few more yet this week. There too has been citizen awareness of tree ordinance follow through– It was noted that this year's planting in Holtwood park is doing well due to Mother Nature's consistent watering.
- c.) Plant a tree for recognition of Werner/Activate Program– Spice sought our Historical Society interest in sharing sponsorship since the Werner activity therein has been consistent, however they would like to see the planting on the Museum grounds. Spice will ask what tree choice they may desire: planting would have to be in the fall.

d.) Restructuring our approach to Arbor Day Planting has been Tabled temporarily as it will be addressed as we close in on that time of year.

8.) Next Meeting Date/Time: Wed. August 13 @ 8 a.m.

Agenda Items: Sasse results with DNR grant application and school involvement with tree donations. Spice will seek more specifics from the Historical Society.

9.) Spice summoned adjournment @ 8:41 a.m. Motiff witnessed the second. (M/C)

Minutes submitted by
Susan K. Seidl