

## MINUTES OF THE FORESTRY COMMITTEE

**Tuesday January 13, 2026 @ 8:00 A.M.**

Oconto City Hall Council Chambers

1. Chairman Tom Sasse called the 1st meeting of 2026 to order.
2. Roll Call: Tom Sasse, Diane Motiff, Wendy Spice; ABSENT: Nick Badendick; ALSO PRESENT: Jeremy Wusterbarth, Advisory Member
3. **Spice witnessed approval of Agenda; Motiff motioned second. (3 Ayes)**
4. **Approval of Meeting Minutes from 12/10/2025 was called by Sasse with a Motiff second. (3 Ayes)**
5. Public Input: Secretary Seidl shared the Jan./Feb. 2026 Arbor Day Foundation news with the Committee. Especially interesting is the New Record of the Global Power of Trees; The Winter Tree Watch: hidden beauty; and usability of White Oak trees. She also obtained Basics of getting a Grant/Barnes and Noble which was given to the Committee. Wusterbarth distributed the Meacham Nursery LLC: Spring 2026 availability catalogue.
6. Correspondence:
  - a. Northeastern WI Forest Health News- WI DNR (January, 2026): Forest Health Annual Report, Hemlock Borer Attacks Stressed Hemlock, Mindfulness of Invasive during Holiday Clean- Up, Invasive Species Action Award Nominations Open- Tim Shively, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Forest Health specialist for West Central Wisconsin, will give a presentation title “Forest Health for Everyone” at a meeting of Juneau County Men’s Shed at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 27, in Mauston.
  - b. Wisconsin DNR Urban Forestry news (December 2025): Grants Announced; Outreach examples from western WI; Catastrophic Storm Grant recipients; WI Governor Evers planting trees; WAA/DNR; Annual Conference Registration Open Now! (12/15/2025) will be finalized with attendance via Committee email; Rhinelander Community Spotlight; Repurposing holiday trees; Upcoming trainings; Impacts of winter weather on trees; Woodpecker damage on Ash trees
  - c. Tree City USA Application has been submitted by Wusterbarth and presently it is in review. He finally stated that late winter/early fall he makes an inspection/assessment of the City.
7. **Discussion/Recommendation/Action on the Following:**
  - a. Update on Nuisance Trees: Wusterbarth reported that City Park has recently had removal of 7 trees. Also, Main and Potter to Adams St are due for future road work which will continue to be incorporated with tree removal and planting.
  - b. Arbor Day 2026: The following have been established:  
Theme– **Create a Legacy: Plant a Tree.**  
Rules– Are in order with updates of 2026: March 2 - 26; April judging of Poster Contest-  
Where– **City Park planting:** we could use 15 - 20 trees: White Oak family suggested.  
Dates to notify school– Wusterbarth will notify Amy Remington accordingly  
Contact of Pete Stark will be achieved by Spice. We could use the history of City Park: suggestions were made. Motiff offered to frame some historic photographs.
8. **Next Meeting Date/Time: Wednesday, February 10 @ 8 a.m.**  
Agenda Items: Selection of tree choice
9. **Motiff summoned adjournment @ 9:02 a.m. Spice witnessed second. (3 Ayes)**

Minutes submitted by Susan K. Seidl