

MINUTES OF THE FORESTRY COMMITTEE

On Wednesday March 18, 2026 @ 8:00 A.M. in the City Hall Council Chambers

- 1.) Chairman Tom Sasse called the meeting to order @ 8:08 a.m.
- 2.) Roll Call: Nick Badendick, Tom Sasse, Diane Motiff, Wendy Spice
- 3.) **Approval of Agenda was placed in motion by Motiff with a follow-up of Badendick. (4 Ayes)**
- 4.) **Approval of Meeting Minutes from 02/10/2026 was called by Motiff and seconded by Spice. (4 Ayes)**
- 5.) Public Input: Tom Sasse, Chairman, attended the **WIAA-WI-DNR Conference** bringing home appropriate literature to the Committee. Especially hands-on was the Good Health Grows on Trees chart and the WI Urban Tree key. He spoke of the meetings which had some useful info but not as extensive as most years.
- 6.) Correspondence:
 - Urban Forestry (February 2026)
 - Wisconsin Urban Forestry Council 2025 Biennial Report published
 - LEAF K-12 Forestry Education program appeared to be useful to the City of Oconto.
 - TREE Fund offers scholarships for undergraduate students who aspire to careers in arboriculture, urban forestry and related fields (Deadline March 2025)
 - Run for the Trees! April 18-26, 2026. The nine-day window includes Earth Day (April 22) and Arbor Day (April 24).
 - information on training topics and events, including shade trees, fruit trees, chainsaw certification, tree diseases and pests, pruning and public perspectives on trees.
 - USDA Forest
 - a.) Northeastern WI Forest Health News – WI DNR (March 2026)
 - Guidelines To Reduce The Risk Of Introduction And Spread Of Oak Wilt
 - Signs, symptoms & protection of trees from EAB Infestation
 - Examine trees for spongy moth egg masses and determine whether control measures are needed. Sasse mentioned that -20 degrees can be effective here as the mortality rate is @ 50%.
 - Watch for squirrel and porcupine tree damage in spring
 - Does cold weather bug the bugs?
 - (DNR) Forest Health program has updated the Japanese stilt grass StoryMap
 - Public appearances planned by (DNR) Forest Health specialists
 - *The eligible Weed Management Groups (WMGs) apply for grants from the Weed Management Area-Private Forest Grant Program (WMA-PFGP) has been extended. This grant would give us 75% of the monies (as in Sharp Park needs) with us coming up with 25% of the \$: THE CITY WOULD FIND IT WORTH APPLYING NOW_though our funding is nil.*
 - b.) Wisconsin DNR News (February 2026)
 - Wisconsin Sees First Recovery Of EAB Parasitoid Oobius Agrili
 - Seek Spongy Moth Egg masses now
 - Thanksgiving Blizzard and Tree Damage
 - National Invasive Species Awareness Week (NISAW), set for Feb. 23 through 27
 - Weed Management Groups (WMGs) to consider applying for a Weed Management Area-Private Forest Grant Program (WMA-PFGP) grant to address invasive forest plants in 2026
 - Ways to discard Holiday decorations
 - Phomopsis, Black Knot Easily Found In Winter
 - Heterobasidion Root Disease Resources Updated
 - c.) Update on Nuisance Trees– This will again be updated when Superintendent Wusterbarth is available.
- 7.) Discussion/Recommendation/Action on the Following:
 - a.) Arbor Day Tree Selection– Sasse created a studied list for City Park concluding that a good added mix of trees would be Swamp White Oak, Hackberry, and Blue Beech which are all canopy trees where there are

Maple and Linden with a few Oaks existing already. The list will be given to Wusterbarth who needs to decide how many we will be planting. Badendick felt that larger trees would make grade school participation less able; it will be posed to Wusterbarth that 1/3rd of the trees be smaller for more “kid” involvement.

b.) Arbor Day Planting dates– Notably, 2026 Earth Day is April 22nd and Arbor Day the 24th. It was determined that **Wednesday, April 29th** be the proposed planting date with **Tuesday, May 5th the Rain day**. Sasse will relay the options to Wusterbarth and thereafter the latter will inform Washington middle school. **Motiff volunteered to pick up posters March 30 or 31st.**

8.) **Next Meeting Date/Time: Monday, April 13 @ 8 a.m.**

Agenda Items: Poster judging
Winner plaque or lamination
Solidification of tree selection
Determination of our planting dates

9.) **Adjournment summoned by Motiff @ 8:38 a.m. Spice witnessed the second. (M/C)**

Minutes submitted by
Susan K. Seidl