MINUTES OF THE FORESTRY COMMITTEE
on Wednesday, July 15, 2026 at 8:00 a.m. in the Oconto City Hall Council Chambers

1. Chairman Tom Sasse called the meeting to order @ 8:03 a.m.
2. Roll Call: Nick Badendick, Diane Motiff, Tom Sasse, Wendy Spice; ALSO PRESENT Advisory Member Jeremy Wusterbarth, and one resident
3. **Spice called for approval of Agenda; Motiff moved to a second. (4 Ayes)**
4. **Approval of Meeting Minutes from 06/10/2026 were placed in motion with a change of the year 2026 to 2027 in *8. c.* by Motiff with a Spice second. (4 Ayes)**
5. Public Input: Superintendent Wusterbarth noted that our *City Hall Tree Memorial plaque* will be updated with leaves this week. At Motiff's request, he also stated that we are still searching for the *Arbor Day 6th grade posters*. Seidl presented the Committee with the *July/August Arbor Day booklet* showing pruning basics for healthier trees/the 3-cut pruning method. This could be added to our website.
6. Correspondence:

A.) Northeastern WI Forest Health News – WI DNR (July, 2026)

- In the past few years, oak decline has been recorded in several regions of Wisconsin, primarily linked to spongy moth defoliation and drought conditions that occurred from 2022-2024.
- The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Forest Health team has published two new fact sheets, one on oak decline and the other on fall webworm.
- Asian longhorned beetle (ALB) has not been found in Wisconsin, but early detection is critical to eliminating it from infested areas.
- What is heart-shaped and hairy all over? Red hailstone!
- Also known as golden creeper or Manchu tubergourd (*Thladiantha dubia*), this invasive perennial vine can grow 18 feet in a single growing season and spreads through underground potato-like tubers that break off from the root system to create new populations.

B.) Wisconsin DNR Forestry News (June 2026)

- Spring 2026– Wisconsin trees have experienced snow and ice damage, severe storms that resulted in wind, hail and flood damage and swings in temperatures that brought leaf out and subsequent frost damage.
- Although overall spongy moth populations are currently low, it is possible that some locations will see a rapid population increase this summer if weather conditions continue to be warm and dry.
- Populations of forest tent caterpillars (FTC) are likely to remain low throughout northern Wisconsin this growing season, continuing a record 23-year statewide trend.
- Red turpentine beetles and pine root collar weevil both attack pines near ground level: how to evaluate the damage…
- The spruce budworm outbreak is continuing for another year in parts of northern Wisconsin.
- ***June is Invasive Species Action Month*.**
- ***Black and pale swallow-wort*** (*Vincetoxicum spp.*) are invasive perennial vines that twine up to 6 feet in length. Sasse distributed a picture: it attracts Monarchs laying caterpillars… that will die.
- With 145 invasive plants regulated under Wisconsin's Invasive Species Rule NR40, it can be challenging to identify some of these plants: The task can be further complicated by the presence of native lookalikes that benefit wildlife, pollinators and ecosystems.
- Motiff noted the ***Giant HogWeed:*** This is also dangerous to the gardener as it burns the hands/arms when exposed to sunlight for several weeks, Sasse added.

C.) Update on Nuisance Trees– See below.

7. **Discussion/Recommendation/Action on the Following: Cottonwood Policy** A concerned citizen, who is feeling the effects of a neighbor's fm. Cottonwood… and who had cut down his own, brought photos that were also seen in our packets. City funding is not available for the fm. Cottonwood that remain in

the area though several of them have been removed in the recent past. The Committee felt that exceptions to the ordinance, firmed @ the City's last cutting, are not the City responsibility. It was determined that the continuous activity parallels a tree under stress. **Spice called motion that Wusterbarth send a letter to the property owner who is responsible for removal of the tree. Sasse called second. (M/C)**

Wusterbarth suggested our 6th grade Arbor Day planting be @ Holtwood.

******** Herein Motiff added that we should apply for the **Urban Forestry 50/50 Grant** which will be posted soon. It is felt that a **City-wide Tree Assessment** is long overdue and would be possible with such a Grant. Wusterbarth will look into it: applications ahead.

****The Historical Society will take a picture and do a small dedication from both groups in the near future, as Spice suggested.

8. **Next Meeting Date/Time: Wednesday, August 19 @ 8 a.m.**
9. **Motiff summoned adjournment @ 8:47 a.m. Badendick witnessed a second. (M/C)**

Minutes submitted by
Susan K. Seidl