

Tree Commission Meeting Minutes
Thursday February 11, 2021 @ 5:00 PM
Virtual Meeting - Stoughton, WI

Members Present: Mitch Bergeson, Mike Point, Kevin Short, Jim Fitzgibbon, Fred Hundt and Dean Tangeman

Absent & Excused: None

Staff: City Forester John Kemppainen and Admin Asst. Jen Wagner

Guest:

Call to order: Bergeson called to order @ 5:03 PM

1) Communications:

- Bergeson attended Tree City USA and put feelers out for canopy cover within the City to target tree location with the grant

2) Approval of minutes from January 14, 2021 Meeting: Motion by Tangeman, seconded by Short to approve the minutes. Carried 5-0.

3) January Forestry Reports: *Kemppainen* stated:

- In-house tree trimming continued in January for the winter season. City staff has been focusing on small tree trimming (6" in diameter and less) while a tree trimming contractor will trim larger trees.
- I assisted with snow plowing operations on several occasions in December.
- I attended (virtually) weekly meetings of the Woody/Ornamentals Species Advisory Group for the DNR Invasive Species Council. These meetings are being held to review currently regulated trees and shrubs under NR40, and also to assess new species to add to the regulated list.
- I contacted all of the elementary schools in Stoughton to determine which 4th and 5th grade classrooms are interested in receiving tree seedlings for Arbor Day this coming April.

4) OLD BUSINESS: Discussion on 2021 DNR Grant – Gravel Beds, Outreach and Tree Application & Criteria: *Bergeson proposed a list of trees to choose from and tracking for time for Grant*

- *Kemppainen* will make the final decisions on what trees to order based on the grant money from McKay Nursery
- Each member will need to track their time spent on grant work and *Bergeson* will keep track of meeting time spent discussing the grant for each member
- Trees will need to be ordered by early March from McKay Nursery
- Required for the grant is to teach people how to properly plant the trees; this will also need to be documented
- Courier Hub is interested in a follow up article on the Grant; get verbiage to them the week before in April

5) NEW BUSINESS: Discussion on Arbor Day 2021:

- *Kemppainen* will reach out to St. Ann's to see if they are also interested in participating
- Will need trees to school on that Thursday and Friday
- *Bergeson* suggested we contact St. Ann's school for Arbor Day trees

6) Future Agenda Items:

- Canopy Project Update
- Maintaining Old Trees
- Verbiage for Hub due in April

Motion by Bergeson seconded by Short to adjourn the meeting at 6:05 p.m. Respectfully submitted 2/12/21, Jen Wagner - Staff