

## Tree Commission Meeting Minutes

Thursday May 13, 2021 @ 5:00 PM

Virtual Meeting - Stoughton, WI

**Members Present:** Mitch Bergeson, Mike Point, Kevin Short, Fred Hundt

**Absent & Excused:** Jim Fitzgibbon & Dean Tangeman

**Staff:** City Forester John Kempainen and Admin Asst. Jen Wagner

**Guest:**

**Call to order:** Bergeson called to order @ 5:15 PM

### 1) **Communications:**

*Kempainen* stated the bare roots were planted in the gravel bed nursery here at the Public Works building and are surviving.

### 2) **April Forestry Reports:** *Kempainen* stated:

- Spring tree planting sites were located and residents were notified of upcoming planting. 69 trees will be planted this spring.
- I worked with Brian Wahl from the WIDNR regarding a tree root/sidewalk study that we are partnering on in Stoughton.
- 40 bare root trees were delivered in April. 2 volunteer members of the Tree Commission assisted with installing the trees in the gravel bed nursery located south of the Public Works building. These trees are part of a grant secured through the WIDNR to provide free trees to Stoughton residents who have lost trees due to Emerald Ash Borer.
- A Forestry Intern was hired for the summer of 2021. Tyler Drost is a student at UW Stevens Point and should be a good fit for the City of Stoughton.
- I helped to coordinate a Cub Scout tree planting project at Amundson Park on the city's east side. Dozens of small white pine saplings were planted near the disc golf course.
- Unfortunately, the trees which were received from the DNR for Arbor Day did not survive through to the distribution date. Arbor Day celebrations were cancelled this year due to COVID-19- but, free trees were made available for students anyway.

### 3) **OLD BUSINESS: Discussion on 2021 DNR Grant – Timeline, forms and report on hours:** *Bergeson proposed a timeline of events*

- *Kempainen* will get information out to the public via the City website as well as make Tree Applications available onsite at the Public Works facility.
- *Bergeson* will reach out to The Hub this month to see if they will publish another article regarding the Tree Application and process.
- Applications will be out in June, with a deadline of July 31, 2021
- Tree planting will take place sometime in September or October of 2021
- Hours required for the grant are being met with monthly meetings and with the help of upcoming tree plantings.

### 4) **NEW BUSINESS: Membership vacancies**

- *Terms of office:* The six members appointed by the mayor shall be appointed as follows: One council member for one year and five citizen members for three years. Successors to those citizen members appointed by the mayor shall be appointed for terms of three years.
- *Point and Hundt* plan to re-up their terms
- *Bergeson* stated currently at this time there are not any vacancies however, this will be his last meeting in which there will be one open spot

**5) Future Agenda Items:**

- Legacy Tree List
- Review Tree Applications that may have come in

**Motion by Short seconded by Hundt to adjourn the meeting at 6:05 p.m. Respectfully submitted 5/14/21, Jen Wagner - Staff**