



OFFICIAL NOTICE AND AGENDA

Notice is hereby given that the Tree Commission of the City of Stoughton, Wisconsin will hold a regular or special meeting as indicated on the date, time and location given below.

Meeting of the:
Date /Time:
Location:
Members:

TREE COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF STOUGHTON
Thursday, March 11th, 2021 @ 5:00 p.m.

This meeting will be Held Virtual

Please join the meeting from your computer, laptop or smartphone.

meet.google.com/zyq-pqvu-ivf

Kevin Short, Dean Tangeman, Mike Point, Mitch Bergeson, Jim Fitzgibbon, Alder Fred Hundt, City Forester John Kempainen, Director Brett Hebert, and Mayor Tim Swadley

Item #	CALL TO ORDER
1	Communications
2	Approve February 11 th , 2021 Minutes

Item #	OLD BUSINESS
3	Discussion on 2021 DNR Grant –Outreach and Tree Application

Item #	NEW BUSINESS
4	Draft message for Outreach for Courier Hub
5	Discussion on Legacy Tree Program
6	Future Agenda Items

ADJOURNMENT

cc:

Mayor Tim Swadley, Council Members, Leadership Teams, City Clerk – Holly Licht, Sarah Monette, Matthew Dregne, City Attorney, Sean Grady, Judi Krebs, stoughtonreporter@wcinet.com stoughtoneditor@wcinet.com
WI State Journal / Capital Times

NOTE: AN EXPANDED MEETING MAY CONSTITUTE A QUORUM OF THE CITY COUNCIL

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 Kempainen 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
- Discussion of recommendation from Dr. Ball (South Dakota State University) to have a goal of not more than 5% by Genera within the urban forest.

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

3) Forestry Reports: Kempainen stated:

January:

- 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

- Kempainen will make the final decisions on what trees to order trees from McKay Nursery based on:
 - Commission discussed species options (Elm, Hackberry, London Planetree, Aspen, Ironwood and Serviceberry)
 - Size, cost and grant money (\$2800) to equal no fewer than 40 trees (functional limit to beds)
- 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

- Requirement of grant includes education on how to properly plant the trees; this will also need to be documented. Have planting factsheet from Morton Arboretum we can use.
- 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 to get trees to school on that Thursday and Friday

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

Draft

For Immediate Release

City of Stoughton Receives Urban Forestry Grant to Acquire Replacement Trees for Property Owners Impacted by EAB

The City of Stoughton Public Works Department Forestry Division, along with the Stoughton Tree Commission, applied for, and was subsequently awarded, a matching fund grant through the Department of Natural Resources Urban Forestry Program. This grant program was put into place to help residents replace trees on their private property that were removed due to the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) infestation that killed many of ash trees in the city's urban forest. The City of Stoughton just finished replacing over 900 trees that were removed due to EAB within the City right-of-way, but there are hundreds of trees on private property that were removed by the property owner that likely were not replaced.

This project will provide residents of the city of Stoughton with free bare root trees to be planted on private property. Ultimately, the primary goal of the program is to increase the urban tree canopy in response to EAB tree loss on private property.

Bare root stock will be purchased in the spring of 2021 and grown in a gravel bed throughout the summer months and will be ready for planting in the fall. Planting bare root trees has shown to significantly increase survivability of planted trees and are much easier to plant than balled and bur lapped trees.

The City used \$2,072.30, from funds raised through the sale of milled tree trunks produced through the City's Tree Cycling program, to match the DNR grant funds for a total of \$4,144.60 to purchase trees for the program.

Outreach efforts will be conducted in the summer of 2021 for interested citizens to pick up trees at specific dates in the fall of 2021. Citizens that receive a tree will be provided informational handouts on the proper planting techniques, care of the tree and needs and benefits of their specific tree species.