

CITY OF BAYFIELD TREE BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday,

February 22, 2024

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was convened by B. Cozzi, City Forester and Chairperson of the Tree Board at 5:01PM.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Beth Cozzi, Jane Edwards, Sherman Edwards, and Jacob Geisler.

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Tad Paavola.

GUESTS PRESENT: Tom Kovachevich and Josh Pearson

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was made by J. Edwards to approve the minutes of the meeting of January 25, 2024. S. Edwards seconded the motion. The motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

A financial report was included with the materials distributed to the members prior to the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

The Chairwoman reported on her recent efforts to update the September 2022 tree inventory with a particular emphasis on the 49 trees identified by the Blue Stem Forestry Consulting as warranting removal. A total of 37 were visually checked; 19 trees were identified priorities for removal; 6 trees were considered appropriate for a watch or monitor status; 8 trees were suspected on being on private property and therefore the responsibility of the home owner; and 4 trees on Rice Avenue may be on school property. It will be necessary to confirm the "ownership" of these 12 trees before any action is taken. Several trees listed in the 2022 Inventory could not be located. It is likely these trees have been removed since the original survey was conducted in May and June 2022. It will be necessary to update the computerized tree inventory to reflect these changes along with the addition of replacement and additional plantings that have been place during this same period of time.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1 Kavon Diatal has agreed to serve as a member of the Tree Board. His application will be considered by the City Council at its March meeting.
- 2 The Board received a report on the removal and proper disposal of an ash tree on the Presbyterian Church property infected with emerald ash borer. This task was completed by members of the congregation. Ash trees in the vicinity of the removed tree (4<sup>th</sup> Street and Washington Avenue) are being professionally treated at the discretion and expense of the property owner.
- 3 The removal of several trees within the 9<sup>th</sup> Street right-of-way above the Fire Hall by an adjacent property owner was discussed. Due to a misunderstanding the Public Works Department was

not informed nor involved in the decision to authorize the property owner to remove several aspen/poplar.

- 4 The Arbor Day celebration has been tentatively scheduled for the afternoon of May 17, 2024. The plan is to involve the Bayfield School 4<sup>th</sup> graders as has been done in prior years. The number of trees to be planted and the sites for these plantings have not been identified. Memorial Park was suggested as a possible location in the area where a large pine was taken down in recent years by a winter storm.
- 5 Brief updates were provided to the Board on (1) the possibility of a grant proposal focusing on the purchase and planting of replacement trees and (2) a possible fundraiser in collaboration with the Pier Plaza Restaurant.
- 6 A work day for trimming and pruning has been scheduled for all available members of the Tree Board on Saturday, March 16, 2024. Folks will meet at City Hall at 9:00AM.
- 7 Volunteer hours – updating tree inventory, B. Cozzi and J. Geisler—a total of 7 hours on February 20<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- 8 The draft of a Tree Cutting Permit Application was distributed to the Board for their review and comment. There were a number of suggestions to clarify the language particularly for the property owners who would be completing such a form. It was also made clear that this application would only apply to (1) city trees (boulevard trees, that is, between the curb and the sidewalk; street trees, that is, trees at or within 30 feet of the center of the street right-of-way where there are neither sidewalk nor curb, and alley trees, that is, trees within 7 ½ feet of the center of alley right-of-way) and (2) the removal of such trees by an adjoining property owner or other private party.

#### FOLLOW-UP MEETING:

The next meeting of the Tree Board is scheduled for Thursday, March 21, 2024 at 5:00PM.

#### ADJOURNMENT:

A motion for adjournment was made by S. Edwards and seconded by J. Edwards. The motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 6:20PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jacob Geisler