

CITY OF BAYFIELD TREE BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday,

July 27, 2023

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was convened by B. Cozzi, City Forester and Chairman of the Tree Board at 5:05 PM.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Beth Cozzi, Dionne Johnston, Tad Paavola, Sherman Edwards, and Jacob Geisler.

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Jane Edwards.

GUEST PRESENT: Tom Kovachevich, Director, Public Works Department

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

A motion was made by D. Johnston to approve the agenda for this meeting. T. Paavola seconded the motion. The motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was made by D. Johnston to approve the minutes of the meeting of April 27, 2023. J. Geisler seconded the motion. The motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

A financial report was received by the Board. The Other Contractual Services line item has been overspent. The Maintenance and Mileage/Meeting line items remain in full. It is possible to move funds from one line item to another, in this case, to cover the \$75.00 over expenditure for Contractual Services. The only significant expense anticipated during the remainder of the current calendar year is the cost of the purchase and planting of new and replacement trees later this fall. Any funds, remaining after the fall tree planting expenses are known and committed, will be slated for tree removal and pruning with the work to be performed by a commercial tree service.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. The Tree Board meeting scheduled for June 22, 2023 was cancelled due to the absence of a quorum.
2. Saturday, September 30, 2023, remains on the calendar as a work day for members of the Tree Board.
3. Tree pruning and removal, including stump grinding, plans for the remainder of this year and next year were discussed. The emphasis will be on those activities listed as Tree Removals – Priority 2 and Priority Prune 2023 and 2024 in the *City of Bayfield Urban Forestry Operations Plan* (September 9, 2022). The discussion also noted the apparent misidentification of some trees in the inventory and the confusion which has ensued. As an example, the tamarisk in Memorial Park was listed in the inventory as a willow. Another deficit in the tree inventory was

the exclusion of all of the trees on the old Courthouse property, which currently houses the Park Service.

4. Tree removal and some pruning will require the services of a commercial tree service. Cost estimates will be pursued for this work. A pruning work day for Tree Board members has been scheduled for Saturday, August 5, 2023 beginning at 8:00 AM.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. The possible submission of a proposal for a startup grant from the Wisconsin DNR Urban Forestry Grant Program was discussed. It was suggested that the City of Bayfield would meet 3 of the 4 conditions for startup grant proposals. Applicants must meet at least 2 of the 4 conditions. B. Cozzi will explore potential grant proposals with J. Edwards, who has been instrumental in prior successful grant proposals submitted by the City of Bayfield under the auspices of the Tree Board.
2. The current spongy moth infestation was discussed. The impact of this invasive species is difficult to predict. Most affected trees will recover. If a tree is particularly compromised or stressed along with defoliation, it may not recover.
3. The 2024 City of Bayfield Budget timetable was distributed. 2024 budget requests must be submitted by the Board no later than September 8, 2023. It is anticipated that the 2024 Tree Board budget from general revenue sources will remain the same. Any increase will have to come from grants.
4. As an informational item. T. Kovachevich, Director of Public Works, informed the members of the Board that several aspen trees bordering the parking lot of the Old Courthouse/Park Service Headquarters will be removed shortly. A maple near the west or Fifth Street entrance to the parking lot will also be removed. The cost for the removal of these trees will be borne by the Courthouse budget.

FOLLOW-UP MEETING:

The next meeting of the Tree Board is scheduled for August 24, 2023 at 5:00 PM. The meeting will be at the Bayfield City Hall.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion for adjournment was made by D. Johnston and seconded by T. Paavola. The motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted.

Jacob Geisler