

CITY OF BAYFIELD TREE BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday

January 29, 2025

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was convened by B. Cozzi, City Forester and Chairperson of the Tree Board at 5:04PM.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Beth Cozzi, Jane Edwards, Sherman Edwards, Kevon Dietel, Paul Delmain, James Kuzzy, and Jacob Geisler.

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Tad Paavola.

GUESTS: None.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

A motion was made by J. Edwards to approve the agenda with the following additions: (1) 2025 CIP Budget, (2) Financial Report, and (3) an additional item under Old Business, the Manypenny Avenue reconstruction plan calling for the removal of several street trees. K. Dietel seconded the motion. The motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was made by J. Edwards to approve the minutes of the meeting of October 23, 2024, with the following correction: The motion to adjourn was made by J. Edwards, not J. Sherman. K. Dietel seconded the motion. The motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

The 2025 City of Bayfield CIP Budget included an allocation from the general fund of \$34,358 for the operation of the Tree Board and associated activities. The budget document also included \$8,000 of expected grant income. The grant request was not approved so that income will not be forthcoming. The City Forester plans to submit a grant request later this spring, so there is a possibility of grant funds supplementing the 2025 Tree Board Budget.

Expenses incurred to date in CY 2025 consisted of \$1,200 for the removal of two trees in the vicinity of Washington Avenue and North Third Street.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. There was considerable discussion of the policy and practice of the Tree Board with respect to the removal and replacement of trees identified as nuisances fully realizing that "nuisance" can be in the "eye of the beholder." The City Forester examines each incident individually and strives to negotiate an acceptable resolution where the removal of any particular tree is avoided if at all possible. If removal is chosen, then replacement becomes an integral part of the discussion as well.

2. The City Forester will approach the owner of the property in the vicinity of South Fourth Street and Manypenny Avenue with regards to a rather large area overgrown by buckthorn and request the property owner take eradication efforts.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. A work detail for the members of the Tree Board has been scheduled for Saturday, February 22, 2025 at 9:00AM, weather permitting. Folks will meet at the Fire Hall. The focus will be on trimming and pruning.
2. It appears that the reconstruction of Manypenny Avenue between Ninth and Twelfth Streets will take place later this year. Plans apparently call for the removal of several mature trees. Several members of the community and the Tree Board have expressed concern that the proposed reconstruction may not have explored alternatives to the removal of all or even some of the trees. So much is unknown about the planned reconstruction of Manypenny Avenue. The City Forester will approach the City Director of Public Works to request a meeting between the Director of Public Works and interested members of the tree Board, so that the latter can be informed of the details of the street/water and sewer reconstruction and the rationale for the proposed design. The interest of the members of the Tree Board would be to minimize the loss of mature and healthy trees.

**FOLLOW-UP MEETING:**

The next meeting of the Tree Board is scheduled for Wednesday, February 26, 2025 at 5:00PM at the City Firehall.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

A motion for adjournment was made by S. Edwards and seconded by J. Edwards. The motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 6:07PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jacob Geisler