

Meeting Minutes
Town of Highland Tree Board
April 15, 2021

1. Date, Time, and Place of Meeting: Secretary Underkofler called a zoom meeting to order at 7:00 pm.
2. Roll Call:
Board Members Present: James Colias, Ron Jackowski; Terry Krooswyk, Joan Roback, Richard Underkofler
Board Members Absent: Connie Sherbondy & Judy Vaughn
Town Staff Present: Trever Kinley, Parks Director
Others Present: Mark Schocke, Council Liaison; High School Environmental Sustainability Club: Teacher/Sponsor Heather Oaks, Michael Burns, Sarah Krick, Mikayla Rebeles, Rory Kosior, Piper Boothe, Carly Kuva and Maddie Jania
3. General substance of matters proposed, discussed, or decided - record of all votes taken by individual members if there is a roll call:
 - **Motion**: Krooswyk moved to approve minutes of a previous meeting held March 18, 2021; seconded by Jackowski and approved by unanimous consent of the members present.
4. Old Business:
 - a. Board Chair: At a Town Council meeting held March 22, 2021, Council President Roger Sheeman “appointed Jim Colias, a member of the Tree Board as its chairperson, pursuant to HMC Section 8.25.030(c).”
 - b. Student Conservation Association (SCA) Plantings: An onsite meeting with SCA and Forest Service representatives to discuss proposed project locations, species, quantities, and priorities for 2021 plantings was delayed awaiting a decision whether the Park Department will maintain trees proposed for the downtown parking lot located near the southwest corner of the intersection of Highway and Kennedy Avenue. Park Director Trever Kinley sent an April 15 email: “This is something we can take care of.”
 - c. 2021 Arbor Day: Indiana celebrates Arbor Day April 30th this year (always the last Friday in April). An event is not necessary to qualify for Tree City recognition if Covid-19 limits participation. However, an Arbor Day Proclamation is required. A proclamation will be considered at the April 26th Town Council meeting. Underkofler asked if seedlings may be granted from NIPSCO and the State Nursery for potential distribution, but none were available. Krooswyk and Colias sought trees from other sources. Terry reported an Ohio nursery will provide some native containerized trees. Purdue sources suggested seeking donations from local nurseries and asking volunteers to collect seed this year to propagate for 2022 for free plant material. It was concluded growing trees from seeds wouldn’t be cost effective.
 - d. Warren Tree Replacement by High School Environmental Sustainability Club: Michael Burns contacted Principal Christina Davis. She said trees planted in Fall 2020 by the SCA survived the winter. She would be delighted to have a flowering dogwood replacement. Krooswyk has a dogwood, which he will deliver to the school for planting on April 30 or another mutually acceptable date.

- e. Tree City USA: A package of 2nd Year Recognition Materials was received from the Department of Forestry, Indiana DNR – a 4'x6' Flag; a Brass Maple Leaf for a Plaque Attachment; and two '2 Years' Sign Stickers.
5. New Business:
- Sherbondy & Vaughn Resignations: Connie and Judy sent emails resigning from the Board. Board members present thanked them for their service. Jim Colias sent the Council members and Clerk-Treasurer an April 15 email reporting the resignations, "I am sending this email to inform you that a second member of the Tree Board has submitted her resignation due to personal issues. I will work with the remaining members of the Board to identify potential replacements for your consideration. If you have on file the names of anyone who has applied for membership, please send them to me."
 - Jim Colias Initiatives:
 - Resumed posting timely articles by urban foresters of Purdue and the Morton Arboretum on the Tree Board Facebook Site.
 - Emailed a suggested form to each board member to be used for submitting brief biographical information and a photo to be periodically posted on the Board's Facebook Site. Krooswyk declined to be featured; Joan Roback will be asked.
 - Introduced himself to Ms. Heather Oaks, teacher sponsor of the High School Environmental Sustainability Club and sent videos to her and club officers by Purdue's Lindsey Purcell: "Choosing Your Tree" (www.youtube.com/watch?v=ilaYvtqY7-l); "Planting a Tree" (www.youtube.com/watch?v=k5rUgd7BmiA); and "Planting Too Deep" (www.purdue.edu/fnr/extension/planting-problems-planting-too-deep/)
 - Confirmed Lindsey Purcell is willing to come to Highland after the Covid-19 lockdown is over to provide a community presentation on a desired tree care topic.
 - Reached out to administrators of the Town's Website (Theresa Badovich and Robin Carlascio d/b/a Idea Factory) requesting a link to the Board Facebook site and suggestions for other methods to increase the number of its followers.
 - Will design a logo for Board approval to be used on emails and donation solicitations.
 - Discussion Topics:
 - Jim Colias led a review of the Board purpose and asked members to volunteer for assignments for an update to the operating plan at the next meeting.
 - Ron Jackowski reported a Swamp White Oak died that was planted in the median of Parish Avenue between Grand Boulevard and Strong Street. It could be replaced by Sarah Krick (who lives in the neighborhood) and other student members of the High School Sustainability Club assisted by Jackowski and Underkofler on April 30th or another mutually acceptable date.
 - Joan Roback asked for help to learn how to identify tree species. Jackowski offered to email an application to her and other board members, which could be used for this purpose. He also offered to provide a vehicle windshield tour of representative tree species at the Lincoln Center and elsewhere about town.
 - Underkofler will deliver hard copies of tree planting and care material to the High School Office with a request to forward them to the classroom of Heather Oaks for reference and use by members of the Environmental Sustainability Club.

- Officers of the High School Environmental Sustainability Club were encouraged to register club members for Park Pride Day at the Lincoln Center or by calling (219) 838-0114. This is an annual park cleanup day. This year's event will be held Saturday, April 24th from 9 to 11:30 am. Bring gloves, rakes, and energy. Immediately after, meet at Main Square Park to receive a free tree shirt and lunch.
 - Board Members are asked to recruit for new members to succeed Connie Sherbondy (term ends January 2020) and Judy Vaughn (term ends January 2024). The application form is posted at <http://www.highland.in.gov/mt content/uploads/2021/01/hbcapplication123119.pdf>
6. Next Meeting: May 20, 2021
7. Adjournment:
- **Motion:** Krooswyk moved to adjourn at 8:04 pm; seconded by Jackowski and approved by unanimous consent of the members present.

Respectfully submitted,



Richard Underkofler, Secretary