

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Town of Highland Tree Board**  
**June 17, 2021**

1. Time and Place of Meeting: President Colias called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm near the Gazebo at Main Square Park.
2. Roll Call:  
Board Members Present: Michael Burns, James Colias, Ron Jackowski, Sarah Krick, Terry Krooswyk, Joan Roback, Richard Underkofler  
Absent: Mark Schocke, Council Liaison; Other invited employees of the Town
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 May 20, 2021; seconded by Burns and approved by unanimous consent.
4. Old Business:
  - a. Tree Board Appointments: Michael Burns and Sarah Krick of the HS Sustainability Club were appointed to succeed Connie Sherbondy & Judy Vaughn. Burns for a term ending January 2022; Krick for a term ending January 2024.
  - b. Student Conservation Association (SCA) Plantings: 3 trees were planted at the downtown parking lot; others are scheduled to be planted this spring behind the Central Fire Station and along the 4<sup>th</sup> and Conduit Street parkways. Next fall after securing approval of adjacent property owners, trees may be planted in Sandalwood Subdivision and in Highway Avenue parkways from 5<sup>th</sup> Street to Cline Avenue. *Burns, Colias, Jackowski and Krick volunteered to help distribute 40 laminated door hangers used by the Public Works Department in previous years where there are vacant planting spots. Krooswyk offered to get more printed if needed. Underkofler will email a tentative schedule for distributing the door hangers.*
  - c. 2021 Arbor Day Tree: Christina Davis, principal of Warren School, believes there may be something wrong with the dogwood planted on Arbor Day. She thinks it might be Dogwood Anthracnose and would like someone to check it out. Colias and Jackowski shared a response from Kyle Daniel from Purdue after reviewing pictures of the tree, "All native dogwoods get anthracnose of varying degrees. It usually isn't a problem if the tree isn't under any other stressors." Jackowski said, "It appears the tree is doing well as long as we keep the tree watered. Let's keep it under observation." *Burns will water on Mondays; Colias on Thursdays. Colias will take care of fertilization next spring.*
  - d. Seedlings: Heather Oaks, Teacher/Sponsor of the HS Sustainability Club, emailed the group reporting Ron Jackowski stopped by and gave her some great info on how to save some rogue seedlings. She is going to move some around on her property using the technique Ron suggested and then in the fall move them to the MS/HS greenhouse so the students can take care of them. Hopefully, in a few years Highland will have access to some trees that will be oak/tulip/redbud and maybe white pine. She asked HS Sustainability club members to reach out to work with Mr. Hillemonds and the MS Science club on this project in the fall. Hillemonds is knowledgeable and very excited to be involved with this. Consider raising some perennials in the green house from the seeds in the pollinator garden for sale or for transplanting to other gardens around STO.

- e. Tree Pruning: Someone unknown pruned trees where they needed it at Southridge School. *Underkofler will contact the school to ask, "who did it?" so he or she may be thanked.*
  - f. New Park Department Tree Care Leader: Aaron Strombeck has been appointed to succeed David Farrara. Contact information: Cell phone 219-798-8236; Email: [astrombeck@highland.in.gov](mailto:astrombeck@highland.in.gov).
  - g. 45<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Street Memorial Park: Lance Ryskamp, President, Highland Community Foundation, sent an email to the board reporting the foundation will not be able to grant the \$5,000 requested for work needed at this park due to other priorities. Krooswyk explained this park was created by contributions to the Community Foundation and turned over to the Park Department for maintenance. Lance noted the board is looking for donations for tags/QR codes to identify trees in the May 20th meeting minutes. He wrote, "Perhaps that will be an alternate way of helping out financially." *Board members concluded a grant of any amount would be gratefully accepted and acknowledged. Colias will seek cost estimates for laminated tree species identification tags.*  
Postscript 6/22/2021: In September of 2016, the Park Board accepted \$9,300 for the loss of trees and the irrigation system along 45<sup>th</sup> Street incidental to a federal grant via IDOT for an intersection improvement. After research by Mark Knesek and Alex Brown, documentation was found that payment was made to the Public Works Department, then deposited 4/27/17 into the Park Non-Reverting Capital Fund. *Perhaps these funds may be spent for work needed at the park.*
5. New Business:
- a. Introduction/Solicitation Letter: *Colias distributed a draft letter, which he'll subsequently email to members for suggested changes.* He asked for the identification of other groups to contact other than community service clubs; Board achievements; the Board's relationship to the Public Works and Parks Departments; how donated monies may be submitted, collected, and expended; and whether a Tree Board email address may be granted by the Town. *There was no objection to how board members were listed. It was suggested landscape material vendors and contractors, churches, and local scout organizations be other groups to contact. The month of August was suggested for emailing the solicitations.*
  - b. Fall 2021 CommuniTree Grant Trees: Notice will be given that property owners who desire free trees should submit applications for fall parkway street tree plantings to Public Works Director Mark Knesek [mail: [mknesk@highland.in.gov](mailto:mknesk@highland.in.gov)]. Include a street address, phone number and an email address with the application. Postscript: *On June 18<sup>th</sup>, Underkofler emailed a suggested Facebook and Gazebo post to Colias and [theresa@theideafactory.us.com](mailto:theresa@theideafactory.us.com).*
6. Discussion Topics:
- a. Transplanting Seedlings: Jackowski demonstrated suggested materials and a technique for relocating seedlings using landscape fabric and an 8" plastic pot.
  - b. Fragrant Tree Species: Jackowski distributed White Mulberry leaves (*an unapproved Highland species*) and Linden leaves (*from Homestead Park*) that smell great.
  - c. Blueberry Picking: Jackowski gave directions to Goin's Blueberry Lane that offers U-pick and ready-picked blueberries in North Judson ([www.facebook.com/GoinsBlueberryLane](http://www.facebook.com/GoinsBlueberryLane)).
7. Next Meeting: September 16, 2021. Board meetings are canceled in July, August and December 2021. Instead, we will communicate by email during these months.

8. Adjournment:

- **Motion:** Jackowski moved to adjourn at 8:01 pm; seconded by Krick and approved by unanimous consent.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Underkofler". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R" and "U".

Richard Underkofler, Secretary