

The monthly meeting of the Town of Highland Tree Board will be held November 18, 2021 in the Building Department Meeting Room at Town Hall beginning at 7:00 PM, but since there is insufficient space there to maintain pandemic social distancing, a Zoom Meeting has been scheduled for persons to observe and participate.

Richard Underkofler
Secretary

Topic: Town of Highland - Tree Board
Time: Nov 18, 2021 07:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83152454692?pwd=dXpmOTI2QVFramhkM3crcGlCeXU4Zz09>

Meeting ID: 831 5245 4692
Passcode: 162270
One tap mobile
+16465588656,,83152454692#,,,,*162270# US (New York)
+13017158592,,83152454692#,,,,*162270# US (Washington DC)

Dial by your location
+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)
+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
+1 720 707 2699 US (Denver)
+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Meeting ID: 831 5245 4692
Passcode: 162270
Find your local number: <https://us06web.zoom.us/u/keaRrtuXJj>

Highland Tree Board
Agenda for Regular Meeting
Thursday, November 18, 2020 – 7 PM

1. Roll Call:

Board Members: Michael Burns, James Colias, Ron Jackowski, Sarah Krick, Terry Krooswyk, Joan Roback; Richard Underkofler. *Krick and Krooswyk have given notice of absence; Colias intends to Zoom.*

Invited Town Council Members: Mark Schocke, Council Liaison; Roger Sheeman, Council President

Invited Town Staff: Michael Griffin, Clerk/Treasurer; Mark Knesek, Public Works Director; Tim Gembala, Public Works Operations Director; Alex Brown, Superintendent Parks & Recreation Department; Trever Kinley, Parks Director; Aaron Strombreck, Parks Tree Crew Leader

Others: webupdates@theideafactory.us.com c/o Theresa Badovich; Ed Dabrowski, Zoom Meeting Host; Lance Ryskamp, Highland Community Foundation; Teacher/Sponsor Heather Oaks, Highland High School Environmental Sustainability Club; Teacher/Sponsor T. Hillegonds, Highland Middle School Science Club; Drew Hart, USDA, Forest Service; Daiva Gylys and Samuel Vergara, The Student Conservation Association

2. **Minutes:** Request for a motion to approve minutes of the last meeting held September 16, 2021. The October meeting was canceled for lack of a quorum.
3. **Old Business:**
 - a. Student Conservation Association (SCA) Plantings: Funding for SCA plantings is provided from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Chi-Cal Rivers Fund; its grant funding has been approved again for next year. A spreadsheet is attached documenting addresses and species for 20 plantings by the SCA crew completed November 3 and 4, 2021. Three more trees were planted in a downtown municipal parking lot at the southwest corner of Highway Avenue and Kennedy Avenue in the Spring of 2021. Each benefited property owner has pledged to water and care for these trees. The SCA has been asked to replace trees next Spring upon verification for SCA 2020 plantings that may have died – 3 at Merkley School and 3 at White Oak Park.
 - b. CommuniTree Fall 2021 Application: Funding for the CommuniTree Community Tree Grant Program is made possible through a Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grant awarded to the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission by the USDA Forest Service. 48 trees were anticipated, but only 43 were received. *A list identifying the species and planting locations may be received by the time of this meeting.*
 - c. Tree Signs: Jim Colias and Ron Jackowski are still discussing the signs reported in the minutes of our September meeting. Ron will proceed with a test of the online software and present other ideas at this meeting.
 - d. Community Forestry Presentations: Colias is working with Purdue Urban Forester Lindsey Purcell to organize use of his videos for a potential zoom educational meeting; an “ask the expert” segment on our Facebook site; and if these are successful, a live community presentation.
 - e. Introduction/Solicitation Letters: At previous meetings Colias and Underkofler distributed draft letters to members for suggested changes. Copies are distributed with this agenda. At the last meeting, Jim Colias expressed thoughts about the two letters which have been suggested to introduce our group to various service organizations, vendors and contractors in town. “This will be the first time many people in those organizations have heard of the Tree Board. In the letter dated June 17th, my focus was to introduce our group, share why we exist, our successes, give some insight into our future plans and ask for their help in promoting us through the community. Personally, I thought this was important in our first contact with others. I don't disagree with the October letter, the information in it can be shared in the future. My apprehension is that as our first communication, I don't feel it lays sufficient foundation as to who we are, what have we done and where we are going. Given that, I definitely feel it is too soon to introduce ourselves by asking for a check. I prefer introducing ourselves before we ask for money.”
4. New Business/Successor Board Members: Terms of Krooswyk, Underkofler and Burns end January 2022; the term of Sarah Krick ends January 2024. If members whose terms are expiring desire a subsequent 3-year term, notice is desired by an email to the Clerk/Treasurer. Michael and Sarah expect to be leaving town to further their education before expiration of their terms. Sara reports no success at recruiting other High School Sustainability Club members to succeed them.
5. Discussion Topics: Comments from Board Members, the Public and/or Visitors: This item of business is confined to announcements of intention to bring a future action, or requests for the preparation of administrative work product for future consideration. In no instance may a matter for final action be taken up under this item of business.
6. Next Meeting: January 20, 2022. The Board does not meet in December.
7. Adjournment