

A Monthly Zoom Meeting of the Town of Highland Tree Board will be held February 17, 2022 beginning at 7:00 PM.

Richard Underkofler  
Secretary

Topic: Town of Highland - Tree Board  
Time: Feb 17, 2022 07:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting  
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**Highland Tree Board  
Agenda for Regular Meeting  
Thursday, February 17, 2022 – 7 PM**

**1. Roll Call:**

**Board Members:** Michael Burns, James Colias, Ron Jackowski, Elizabeth Herrejon, Sarah Krick, Joan Roback; Richard Underkofler.

**Invited Town Council Members:** Bernie Zeeman, Council President & Liaison to the Board

**Invited Town Staff:** Janice Figueroa <[jfigueroa@highland.in.gov](mailto:jfigueroa@highland.in.gov)>, Interim Clerk/Treasurer; Mark Knesek, Public Works Director; Tim Gembala, Public Works Operations Director; Alex Brown, Superintendent Parks & Recreation Department; Trever Kinley, Parks Director

**Others:** [webupdates@theideafactory.us.com](mailto:webupdates@theideafactory.us.com) c/o Theresa Badovich & Robin Carlascio; Ed Dabrowski, Zoom Meeting Host; Lance Ryskamp, Highland Community Foundation; Teacher/Sponsor Heather Oaks, Highland High School Sustainability Club; Teacher/Sponsor T. Hillemonds, Highland Middle School Science Club; Drew Hart, USDA, Forest Service; Samuel Vergara, The Student Conservation Association

2. **Minutes:** Request for a motion to approve minutes of the last meeting held November 18, 2021. The Board did not meet in December 2021 or in January 2022 when Terry Krooswyk and Rich Underkofler were unavailable.

**3. Old Business:**

- a. 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.
- b. Board Introduction Letters: At the November meeting, Jim Colias was asked to proceed with letters to introduce our group to various service organizations, vendors and contractors in town to share why we exist, our successes, give some insight into our future plans and ask for their help in promoting us through the community.
- c. Successor Board Members: Terms of Terry Krooswyk, Richard Underkofler and Michael Burns ended January 2022. Krooswyk did not seek a subsequent term; Elizabeth Herrejon of the High School Sustainability Club was appointed to succeed him. Underkofler was reappointed to a 3- year term. Michael Burns will serve until a successor is appointed and qualified. Congratulations to Michael who will be leaving Highland in August to attend Dartmouth College on a full-ride scholarship. School Superintendent Brian Smith wrote this in a recent issue of *Trojan Today*, “Michael Burns didn’t just get great grades. He has worked to help the environment and diversity – first as a founder of the Sustainability Club and one of the first student members of the Highland Tree Board. This school year, he founded Diversity University, a high school club that addresses ways we can all be kinder to each other.”

Updated Board Member Contact and Term Information  
*Please provide missing info*

| Member              | Address             | Phone          | Email                       | Term Ends    |
|---------------------|---------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|--------------|
| James Colias        | 2215 Ridgewood      | (219) 923-1219 | Jim@mattslawn.com           | January 2023 |
| Ron Jackowski       | 3105 Strong Street  | (219) 838-1816 | XY3941@gmail.com            | January 2023 |
| Joan Roback         | 8941 Ohio Place     | (219) 798-8574 | Joan7144@att.net            | January 2024 |
| Sarah Krick         |                     | (219) 923-4485 | sarah.krick16@gmail.com     | January 2024 |
| Richard Underkofler | 9205 Idlewild Drive | (312) 550-4478 | runderkofler76@comcast.net  | January 2025 |
| Elizabeth Herrejon  | 8505 Juniper Trail  |                | zabethherrejon@gmail.com    | January 2025 |
| Michael Burns       |                     | (219) 670-9138 | michaeldburnsjr@hotmail.com | January 2022 |

**4. New Business:**

- a. Tree City USA Status: The Town Highland is earning recognition from the Arbor Day Foundation for a third year as a 2021 Tree City USA. Residents of our community should be proud to live in a place that makes the planting and care of trees a priority, and we should be proud of a job well done! A recognition letter and press release will be sent directly to the Council President when the recognition materials are mailed out on or before Arbor Day. For the last couple of years, the Arbor Day celebration requirement has been waived because of the pandemic. For calendar year 2022, an Arbor Day celebration and proclamation will be required to earn or maintain Tree City USA Status. Celebration ideas that meet this standard include an in-person gathering, an outreach training or workshop, a virtual event, a social media post or campaign, mail outreach, or tree distribution. Additionally, 2022 marks 150 years of Arbor Day.
- b. CommuniTree Grant: NIRPC is now accepting applications for Spring 2022 tree planting through the CommuniTree Grant Program. Communities can apply to receive quality 1+ inch caliper native trees to plant and maintain in public spaces. Applications are due Friday, March 11.

- c. Student Conservation Association (SCA) 2022 Tree Plantings: Drew Hart of the Forest Service sent an email requesting potential spring tree planting sites. 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. Ron Jackowski replied “There are quite a few spots in the Boulevard Estates parkway on 44th. This is a broad parkway with no overhead limit and well suited to large trees. Unfortunately, some of the trees that died there recently were replaced with small varieties, e.g., hornbeam, a lifetime missed opportunity IMO unless they are re-sited. I like what we did on Highway by surveying the street to determine what size canopy fits best. I don't know if that's done in all cases, but I think it's a good idea. I also like the idea of alternating to create a more natural appearance, e.g., Y t T Y t i Y i T vs monoculture grouping, e.g., Y Y Y t t t T T T i i i. The Warren & Johnson plantings look more like the latter. If we didn't get a delivery of a variety of sizes at one planting time, there's no harm in leaving spaces open for them when we did get them. Just some thoughts.”
  - d. SCA Job Opportunities: Samuel Vergara, Chicago Program Manager, emailed the attached flyers for crew leader and crew member positions for the SCA CTCC crew. He asks you to please share with anyone you think would be best for the positions.
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: March 17, 2022.
  7. Adjournment