

The monthly meeting of the Town of Highland Tree Board will be held at 7:00 PM, Thursday, September 15, 2022 at Town Hall and as a Zoom Meeting.

Richard Underkofler
Secretary

Topic: Town of Highland, IN - Tree Board
Time: Sep 15, 2022 07:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89735855087?pwd=OXZrcTZSVTNjTGVSMTnp6cmpCNmowUT09>

Meeting ID: 897 3585 5087

Passcode: 285125

One tap mobile

+16465588656,,89735855087#,,,,*285125# US (New York)

+16469313860,,89735855087#,,,,*285125# US

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 646 931 3860 US

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 309 205 3325 US

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 564 217 2000 US

+1 669 444 9171 US

+1 719 359 4580 US

+1 720 707 2699 US (Denver)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 386 347 5053 US

Meeting ID: 897 3585 5087

Passcode: 285125

Find your local number: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89735855087?pwd=OXZrcTZSVTNjTGVSMTnp6cmpCNmowUT09>

**Highland Tree Board Agenda for Regular Meeting
Thursday, September 15, 2022 – 7 PM**

Roll Call:

Board Members: James Colias, Elizabeth Herrejon, Ron Jackowski, Joan Roback, Laura Steyer, Richard Underkofler, Bernie Zemen. *Welcome Blane Roberts [mailto:broberts1120@gmail.com], who is expected to succeed Bernie Zemen for a term that expires January 2024. Its presumed Bernie will remain Board Liaison.*

Invited Town Staff: Mark Herak, 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 c/o Theresa Badovich; Ed Dabrowski, Zoom Meeting Host; Lance Ryskamp, Highland Community Foundation; Heather Oaks, Teacher/Sponsor Highland High School Sustainability Club; T. Hillemonds, Teacher/Sponsor Highland Middle School Science Club; Drew Hart, USDA, Forest Service; Samuel Vergara, The Student Conservation Association; Jennifer Birchfield, NIRPC; Rebecca Koetz, Lake County Extension Agent.

Minutes: Request for a motion to approve minutes of the last meeting held June 16, 2022.

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 2022. We've been asked to suggest Fall 2022 SCA planting locations.
- b. CommuniTree Spring 2022 Plantings: Funding for the CommuniTree 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. The Street Department will be collecting 20 trees September 29th for fall parkway plantings. They will be low growing species to avoid growing into overhead utility lines. The Spring 2022 planting location inventory provided by Tim Gembala is delivered with this agenda.
- c. Transplanting Trees: Status Report from Ron Jackowski re: sites identified for transplanting his backyard nursery replacing dead trees in street medians, at Merkley School & White Oak Park; and those requested by Elizabeth Herrejon, Bernie Zemen & Highland Christian School. "The tree we moved to Parrish @ Grand from my yard in 2021 has established very well there. I am hoping that most of them will still not be too hard to move since they average ~10-12' and ~1" caliper. Perfect transplant size. I tried to keep them root pruned this year so hopefully they should do similarly."
- d. Tree Species Recommendations: A Ron Jackowski update is delivered with this agenda.
- e. Beautification of the Embankment around the Downtown Parking Lot: A \$14,200 estimate was secured by Parks Director Trever Kinley from Dave's Tree Service for clearing the depot side of the embankment around the downtown parking lot of scrub trees and invasive vegetation. The Park Board asked for a contribution of two thirds of the clearing cost from the Redevelopment Commission and/or Town Council. Although the Park Board was willing to assume future maintenance expense of the area and one-third of the clearing cost, this Highland Neighbors for Sustainability proposal got scrubbed when the Commission and Council declined to fund a matching share. There is potential for a future T-Mobile Hometown Grant to underwrite a more extensive project along the northside of the Ridge Road embankment from Kennedy Avenue to 5th Street. Application deadlines in 2023 are: March 31, June 30, Sept 30 and Dec 30. [<https://www.t-mobile.com/brand/hometown-grants>]
- f. AT&T Fiber Optic Installation: Despite several inquiries, we have not been able to obtain maps showing where fiber has been installed that will hamper parkway plantings. We'll have to rely on utility locates.

New Business:

- a. Fall Community Tree Planting Seminar: An October 19th session will be held at the Highland Library.
- b. Tree class for Elementary Students: Jim Colias has been working with Rebecca Koetz, The Purdue Lake County Extension Educator. Rebecca suggested 2 classes of one hour each during a weekday. One class could be the life cycle of a tree and learning how we use wood products in everyday life. The second class could be identifying different kinds of trees and making a dichotomous key. Jim could also add a tree ID obstacle course with kids of all ages. Currently, Rebecca has available training time in October, but her schedule changes quickly. Our Lady of Grace is interested in a class for its 5th and 6th grade students and Highland Christian is interested for its kindergarten classes.
- c. Urban Forestry Webinar: Consider a Sep 27, 2022 1 PM webinar hosted by the Arbor Day Foundation about preserving tree canopy. The webinar will be 1 hour and 15 minutes and will be recorded and shared with registrants following the event. Register at https://arborday.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ioVZ7S5KSh6E_Aq64kIDqQ

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.

Next Meeting: October 20, 2022.

Adjournment