

Meeting Minutes
Town of Highland Tree Board
September 15, 2022

1. Time and Place of Meeting: Chair James Colias called the monthly meeting of the Tree Board at 7:08 PM at Town Hall and as a Zoom Meeting.
2. Roll Call:
Present: Board Members James Colias, Ron Jackowski, Joan Roback and Richard Underkofler at Town Hall; Elizabeth Herrejon by Zoom.
Absent: Board Members Laura Steyer, Bernie Zemen, other invited employees of the Town and agencies.
3. General substance of matters proposed, discussed, or decided - record of all votes taken by individual members if there is a roll call:
 - Roback moved to approved meeting memoranda of the meeting held 6-16-22, seconded by Colias and approved by unanimous consent of the members in attendance. Meetings were not held in July or August 2022.
4. 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, but not in 2023. We've been asked to suggest Fall 2022 SCA planting locations. *Jim Colias will seek suggestions on the Board's Facebook site.*
 - b. CommuniTree 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 Spring 2022 planting location inventory was provided with the agenda documents as furnished by Tim Gembala, Public Works Operations Director. ***Postscript***: *The Street Department collected 19 trees September 29 for planting this Fall: Redbud (7); Red Twig Dogwood (5); Serviceberry (6); American Linden (1). All but the Linden are low growing species.*
 - c. Transplanting Trees: Ron Jackowski said he will seek utility locates and coordinate a date with Colias, Underkofler and Zemen for transplanting his backyard nursery trees for replacing dead trees in street medians, at Merkley School & White Oak Park; and those requested by Elizabeth Herrejon, Zemen & Highland Christian School. He reported "The tree we moved to the median on 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: Ron Jackowski prepared an 9/6/2022 update to the table of approved/unapproved species with links to photos of unapproved species. It was provided with the agenda documents
 - 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 proposal from Carlos Alberto and the Highland Neighbors for Sustainability Group 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.
5. New Business:
 - a. Fall Tree Health Seminar: It has been a dry year in Indiana. Despite recent rains our trees and plants remain stressed. The impacts of drought can carry forward for several growing seasons. Come to a Wednesday, October 19th session at Highland Library at 6:30 PM to hear a presentation by Arborist Sharon Anderson and learn how to help our trees.
 - b. Tree class for Elementary Students: Jim Colias is 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. Another class would identify different kinds of trees using a dichotomous key or a tree ID obstacle course. Currently, Rebecca has available training time in October. Our Lady of Grace is interested in a class for its 5th and 6th grade students. Highland Christian is interested in a presentation for its kindergarten classes.
6. 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. How to request removal of dead or hazard trees and the special distance to be maintained for planting replacement trees was discussed.
7. Next Meeting: Thursday, October 20, 2022 at 7:00 PM.
8. Adjournment: The meeting ended at 7:38 PM on a motion of Herrejon, second by Roback and approved by unanimous consent of the members in attendance.

Respectfully submitted,



Richard Underkofler, Secretary