

The monthly meeting of the Town of Highland Tree Board will be held at 7:00 PM, Thursday, November 17, 2022 at Town Hall and as a Zoom Meeting.

Richard Underkofler  
Secretary

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CANCELLED

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**Highland Tree Board Agenda for Regular Meeting  
Thursday, November 17, 2022 – 7 PM**

**Roll Call:**

**Board Members:** James Colias, Elizabeth Herrejon, Ron Jackowski, Joan Roback, Blane Roberts, Richard Underkofler, Bernie Zemen.

**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](mailto: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 October 20, 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. *Jim Colias was asked to seek suggestions on the Board's Facebook site. Ron Jackowski suggested identifying streets where there are open planting sites due to removal of dead trees; then surveying the homeowners to inquire if they are willing to water and care for a replacement tree as was completed for Sandalwood Subdivision and Highway Avenue.*
- 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 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. *The Fall 2022 planting location inventory may be completed by the time of this meeting.* For 2023 plantings, Doris Bauer requested replacement of four trees at 10032 Wildwood Lane; Jim Sweeney requested replacement of one tree at 10020 Wildwood Lane.
- c. Transplanting Trees: On 10/30/22 Colias, Jackowski, Roberts, Underkofler and Zemen met to transplant four trees from the Jackowski backyard nursery: one at White Oak Park, one at the home of Bernie Zemen and two at Warren Elementary School. Matt's Landscaping contributed a truck; Underkofler and Zemen contributed mulch and water. It's presumed the weather is now too cold to transplant more Jackowski trees for replacing dead trees in parkway, street medians, Merkley School; and new trees requested by Elizabeth Herrejon and Bernie Zemen.
- d. Fall Tree Health Seminar: An October 19th session scheduled at Highland Library for a presentation by Arborist Sharon Anderson about how to help trees survive drought conditions was postponed due to a death in the Anderson family. All parties are interested in rescheduling.
- e. Tree classes for Elementary Students: Jim Colias is coordinating with Rebecca Koetz, Purdue Lake County Extension Educator to lead classes on a single day at Our Lady of Grace and Highland Christian School.
- f. Expiration of Board Member Terms: Another inquiry is made whether Jim Colias, Elizabeth Herrejon and Ron Jackowski intend to apply for another 3-year board term when their current terms expire on the first Monday in January 2023.

**New Business:** No topics have been presented for action.

**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:** January 19, 2023. The Board is not scheduled to meet in December. Merry Christmas!

**Adjournment**