

The monthly meeting of the Town of Highland Tree Board will be held at 7:00 PM, Thursday, January 19, 2023 at Town Hall. Due to technical difficulties, there will be no Zoom access to this meeting.

Richard Underkofler
Secretary

**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 c/o Theresa Badovich; Ed Dabrowski, Zoom Meeting Host; Lance Ryskamp, Highland Community Foundation; Heather Oaks, Teacher/Sponsor Highland High School Sustainability Club; T. Hillegonds, 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. No meeting was held in December; the November meeting was canceled for lack of a quorum.

Old Business:

- a. Expiration of Board Member Terms: The terms of Jim Colias, Ron Jackowski and Elizabeth expired on the first Monday in January. The members of the board serve until a successor is appointed. Elizabeth sent an email, "A junior from Highland High School's Sustainability Club is very much interested in joining the Tree Board. Her name is Natalie, and she is very enthusiastic to be joining and will be replacing me when my term ends. In the meantime, she is currently filling out an application form." *At its last meeting, the Town Council postponed action on appointments to the board and a chairperson appointment.*
 - b. 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 was approved again for 2022. We failed were to suggest Fall 2022 SCA planting locations. *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.*
 - c. 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 last 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.
 - d. Transplanting Trees: The weather is now too cold to transplant more Jackowski nursery trees. We will plan to replace dead trees in parkways, street medians, Merkle School; and plant new trees requested by Elizabeth Herrejon and Bernie Zemen in the Spring.
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- f. 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. *Jim Colias reported all parties are interested in rescheduling.*
- g. Tree classes for Elementary Students: Jim Colias was 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. *Principal Mark Topp reported a class did not occur at OLG, nor was he contacted to cancel or postpone it.*

New Business:

- a. 2022 Tree City USA Application. The Town of Highland's application was submitted December 30, 2022. Jacob Roos [jroos@dnr.IN.gov] has been appointed successor to Carrie Tauscher as the Division of Forestry's Community & Urban Forestry Coordinator.
- b. Indiana Arborist Association Conference. The IAA Annual Conference will be held at the Indianapolis Marriott East from Jan 24 to Jan 26. Rich Underkofler is leaving Jan 23 for the first day of the Urban Forestry Program and will be returning home Jan 24 should anyone desire to accompany him. Registration information has been emailed to board members, public works, parks and recreation leaders.

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: February 16, 2023.

Adjournment