

Michiana Tree Board Meeting

August 5, 2024

2:00 P.M. (EST)

The meeting was held in person at the Village Hall.

Attendees:

The meeting was called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. (EST) Present were Anne Blasko, Karen Szyp, Andrew Aronson and Rick Reitz and Clerk Anne Heywood. Nancy Thill was not present.

Reports

1. **Public tree removal status update** – Kevin Kramer from Sturgeons Tree Surgeons was present and reported that 2 of the dead cotton woods had been taken down. Rick will show Kevin where the other 3 are located and get a price. Kevin told the group he has applied to be a Certified Arborist. He was taking classes and would let the Village know when he is Certified.

Old Business

1. **Plans and date for Arbor Day 2024** – No date set but the following things to need to take place; the Press needs to be notified, Color Guard present and need to plant a tree.
2. **Review of grant funding time sheets** - The tree board was reminded to make sure they record volunteer time spent doing any type of tree work, phone calls made inquiring about nurseries and any research, this is required to be filled on the paperwork for grant we received. Copy of Anne Blasko time sheet was presented.
3. **Tree service RFP form changes discussion/adoption** – Nancy had sent over information to using the City of Muskegon's RFP as an example. Nancy made some changes to the document and forwarded to the board for review and any additional changes.
4. **Discussion of source nurseries for native trees and plantings for municipalities** – Karen Szyp went over information of the different places she called from the list provided in July's meeting regarding purchasing of wholesale trees. The group requested follow up with Remus Farms, Hobart; Possibility Place, Monee; and Hidden Savanna Nursery in Kalamazoo. Karen will reach out to those nurseries to see what type of trees they have in stock.

New Business

1. **Collaboration with Michiana day Camp camper Art Auction results** – Anne Blasko and Karen Szyp will meet tomorrow morning 8:45a.m. with Tina Weaver to discuss: If the camp is interested in doing another year art project as fundraiser and when it might take place: Bingo Night, Jeopardy Night, Talent Show or Carnival Night.
2. **Tree Kit Sales** – There were kits left sold 10. Anne will send out an email blast informing the residents they are for sale at the office.

3. **Little Ambassadors mission statement and designee buttons** – Anne Blasko research the cost of a button machine and will ask the Day Camp if they would purchase the machine. This could be part of the campers making their own designee button. Nancy wrote a mission statement for the Little Ambassadors and sent it over to review.
4. **Possible Chair appointment for volunteer Adopt-A-Tree program for new plantings** – Andrew volunteered to look for volunteers to take care of watering the new trees that will be planted in the Village. They would need daily care once planted in early October for the first couple of weeks.
5. **Schedule next meeting Wednesday August 21, 2024 at 11:00A.M. EST**

Meeting adjourned at 3:30P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne