**VILLAGE OF MICHIANA**

**Tree Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday, March 9, 2023 at 2:30 pm EST**

The meeting was held in person at the Village Hall.

**ATTENDEES**

Council member Nancy Thill Tree Commissioner, called the meeting to order present were Karen Szyp, Anne Blasko, and Andrew Aronson who participated by phone. There were 2 residents presents and the Anne Heywood Village Clerk. Nancy stated the Tree Inspectors for the Village are Bill Lambert and Rick Reitz.

Nancy opened the meeting by talking about the tree inventory that took place in the Village. The Field Arborist from Great Lakes Urban Forestry performed the inventory over the course of 3-days spread. This was spread out over 3-week period due to weather. Fieldwork was completed on March 2, 2023. They were able to count 679 trees that were on the Village right away. The work will resume on the extrapolation and a final report to be completed by May if all goes well.

**Highlights from the meeting:**

* The members viewed the preliminary draft of the tree inventory on Nancy’s computer. It was color coded representing various findings about the trees in the Village.
* Arbor Day usually is on the last Friday of April, but this year the Village will hold their first on Saturday, October 7 in conjunction with the Villages Oktoberfest.
* Discussion for division of labor for developing that event as per Coordinator’s Planning Guide focuses on the eighth month category which are the following:
  + Organize a planning committee.
  + Anne Blasko will be working on educational activities for kids and will work in conjunctional with the Michiana Day Camp.
  + Karen Szyp will come up with fundraising possibilities.
  + Nancy Thill said she would do press releases.
  + Description of jobs and committee they group thought they could plant a tree for the first Arbor Day.
  + Hosting a guest speaker, some ideas were having the Long Beach Garden Club or Steve from the Great Lakes Urban Forestry.
* Nancy ordered a few pamphlets for handouts called “Plant Trees for America”.
* Nancy talked about an estimate budget for 2023/2024 based on previous estimates provided by Great Lakes Urban Forestry. This estimate of $2,500 will be given to the treasurer to work in the upcoming budget. These numbers should correlate with the work currently being performed for the final recommendations, and going forward for the next 5-plus years.

Respectfully submitted

Anne Heywood/Clerk