

Village of Michiana
Tree Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, June 19, 2024. 1:00 pm EST

The meeting was held in person at the Village Hall.

Attendees:

Council member Nancy Thill Tree Commissioner, called the meeting to order at 1:00pm EST. Also present were Anne Blasko, Karen Szyp, and Rick Reitz.

Highlights:

Rick reported on the 2 dead cotton wood trees that would be removed. He went over the 3 written bids he received for the job and reported that the council approved the bid from Sturgeon's for \$5000.00. He described how they would bring a crane on site to lift the trees. He is hoping to work with Sturgeons to remove an additional third tree at a discounted price.

The budget for tree removal and the grant was discussed. The proposals and spending in the grant have a deadline of October 1, 2024. MDNR Form PR 4010 for calculating volunteer time per the grant was discussed.

Nancy presented a condensed list of trees indicated for removal that were provided in the recent tree inventory and Urban Forestry Management Plan (UFMP). There was discussion about the list. Karen clarified that the trees marked 'priority' would be taken care of first. A vote was taken to remove as many of the trees on the condensed tree list as possible with the money available. All present voted yes.

Nancy reported that AEP has not completed the trimming and removal of the trees around the utility lines. There are still many oak trees to trim or cut and there was concern over Oak wilt. AEP will be holding off complete the job until it is safe to trim the oak trees, except for an emergency safety situation.

There was discussion about how being certified by Tree City USA means the village agrees to adhere to certain tree care standards put forth by Tree City USA and the Arbor Day Foundation.

Nancy asked that the tree board take record of anything done so that it could be put in a press release. She thanked the members for their hard work and participation in 2023 that led to the awarding of the MDNR grant, Tree City USA certification and the adoption of the UFMP that provides a guide for tree care within the village.

Nancy mentioned her interest in attending the Michigan City Tree Board meeting at the Michigan City Library on June 22, 2024, at 1:00 CST time.

Anne Blasko spoke about the day camp project being presented in conjunction with their carnival on Friday, July 12, 2024. The art projects would be framed and bid on by the parents.

There was a discussion about when to have the Arbor Day Ceremony in Michiana and what trees to plant. Anne suggested speaking with the other camp leaders and holding it during the July 12 carnival while there was a crowd. Anne also spoke about the fundraiser she was researching but the seeds they offer are neither on the Michiana approved tree list nor native to Michiana. She is waiting to hear back from the company about alternatives.

Karen brought up speaking and working out details with the Sheahan family who want to plant a tree in their daughter's honor and combining this with the Arbor Day celebration if the Sheahan's agree. Nancy reminded the board that trees paid for with the grant need to be approved first by MDNR. Karen brought up the point that it may be too hot to plant in July. A site may be dedicated until the weather is better for planting.

There was discussion about recruiting volunteers and who would manage the volunteers to help with the researching nurseries and replanting trees.

Meeting adjourned at 2:06PM EST.

Next meeting: July 1st – 2:00 pm EST