

## SHADE TREE COMMITTEE

### MEETING MINUTES

MAY 5<sup>TH</sup> 2021

Gary Stachowicz, Hillsdale City Forester called the Shade Tree meeting to order at 3:06 p.m.

**Board members present:** Jake Hammel, Elaine Tillinger, Jason Sellers and Jared Cole. Seth Haywood was sick and did not attend. Mr. Rick Eckert attended the meeting as well. A motion made by Jason to exclude Seth from the meeting. Motion seconded by Jared and carried unanimously. Bud Heinowski was not present.

**Approval of minutes:** Jason Sellers made a motion to accept the minutes from the February 3<sup>rd</sup> 2021 meeting. The motion seconded by Elaine and carried unanimously.

**Public comments:** Mr. Rick Eckert attended the meeting to submit a check for \$2,500.00 to the City of Hillsdale's public tree planting program. The money will be used to replant trees on Rippon Ave. Mr. Eckert also wanted to know if the city's public tree planting program is being advertised and suggested contacting the Heritage Foundation and the Community foundation as a potential way to secure future tree planting funds.

#### Old Business:

- a. Spring 2021 tree planting locations: Gary mentioned to the committee that 47 trees have been planted throughout the city and Owen Park. Earlier this year his estimate for tree planting was 25. He mentioned that 47 trees is one of the highest totals he has done since his employment with the city.
- b. Lakeview cemetery tree removals: Gary mentioned that tree removal progress at Lakeview cemetery is progressing ahead of schedule and that all trees marked for removal should be completed within two to three more days of work.

#### New Business:

- a. Tree City USA: Gary informed the committee that the City of Hillsdale has achieved the status of Tree City for the 43<sup>rd</sup> year in a row as awarded by the Arbor Day Foundation.
- b. Tree purchase for Rippon Ave/Richard Eckert: See above under public comments.

- c. Michigan Arbor Day: Gary mentioned that Michigan celebrated Arbor Day this year on April 30th. Due to covid 19 restrictions, the yearly tree planting presentation at Gier school was cancelled for the second year in a row.
- d. Gary handed out a Michigan DNR newsletter relating to Oak Wilt. May is Oak Wilt awareness month here in Michigan and informs people to avoid trimming and or removal of oak trees during the growing season (April-October).

**ADJOURNMENT:** Jason made a motion to adjourn the Shade Tree committee at 3:40 p.m. The motion was seconded by Elaine and passed unanimously. The next Shade Tree meeting is scheduled for Wednesday August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 3:00 p.m.