

Decorah Tree Board

October 29, 2020

The electronic meeting, via Zoom, was called to order by Chairman Scott Timm at 5:31pm.

Participating: Mark Faldet, Dick Guilgot, Tina Hall, Drew Pellett, Scott Timm, Peter van der Linden, and City Forester Sam Hogenson.

Minutes from the September meeting have not yet been circulated, so no action was taken on them.

Timm reported that we have received a \$2,500 grant from Alliant Energy's Branching Out program.

Hogenson reported that the Tree Board's unspent balance for this fiscal year is \$6,575.11.

MOTION by Faldet, second by Guilgot: to apply for a grant of \$3,500 from Black Hills Energy to supply trees for spring planting, with the Tree Board providing a \$750 match. Motion carried.

The Tree Board has circulated a news release offering free tree guards to protect young trees in boulevards. A number of residents have responded. Timm has sent an initial reply to the residents; van der Linden will work out the logistics with Hogenson and then notify the residents when and where to pick up the tree guards.

A homeowner has asked the City to treat an ash tree in the boulevard in front of his house, to protect it from Emerald Ash Borer. The matter was discussed and it was agreed that the City should decline to do this.

Hogenson reported that 92 stumps remain in boulevards; it is likely that these will not be ground by the City's contractor until next spring or summer. 96 additional trees have been selected for removal and their stumps will need to be ground as well. In future contracts, Hogenson will specify that stumps be ground to a greater depth. (Note: the cost of stump grinding is not charged to the Tree Board's budget.)

Guilgot will file paperwork needed to continue Decorah's status as a Tree City USA. Timm expressed appreciation to Guilgot for his efforts.

The meeting adjourned at 6:31pm. The next meeting will be held by Zoom on Thursday, December 3 at 5:30pm.

Peter van der Linden, Secretary