

Decorah Tree Board

February 25, 2021

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

Participating: Mark Faldet, Dick Guilgot, Tina Hall, Brent Parker, Scott Timm, Peter van der Linden, and City Forester Sam Hogenson. Local resident Kevin Sand also attended a portion of the meeting.

MOTION by Parker, second by Faldet: to approve the minutes of the January 28, 2021 meeting as circulated. Motion carried.

The press release about how to identify ash trees is not yet ready for circulation.

Van der Linden agreed to write a press release about pruning.

Hogenson has identified sites to plant 18 large trees and 7 small trees this spring. One site has room for an additional large tree and another site has room for an additional small tree. Hogenson asked if the Board would like to purchase these two extra trees.

MOTION by van der Linden, second by Guilgot: to purchase the two additional trees recommended by Hogenson. Motion carried.

Following discussion, the following trees were selected for the spring planting: thornless hawthorn, bluebeech (*Carpinus*), ironwood (*Ostrya*), sugar maple, and chinkapin oak.

MOTION by Faldet, second by Parker: to purchase a replacement for a tree planted along Short Street in 2019 that died. Motion carried.

Kevin Sand reported that he and the Winneshiek Energy District are interested in sponsoring a planting of small seedling trees around residences in Decorah as an energy conservation measure. The Green Iowa Americorps team could assist with planting and caging the trees to protect them from wildlife. There was a consensus that the Tree Board would welcome this effort, provided that permits were obtained for any trees planted in boulevards. Guilgot suggested that trees could also be planted in parks, in cemeteries, along the Trout Run Trail, and in other public places. Sand Will investigate sources for the trees and report at the next Tree Board meeting.

The Board then discussed the possibility of planting fruit trees in a public place in Decorah. Locations near the Pulpit Rock Campground and Community Garden were suggested.

Trees are needed for a property on College Drive (across from Casey's) where trees were lost to a construction project in the past but never replaced. There was a consensus that the Tree Board should provide these.

Hogenson reported that property owners are not always watering boulevard trees provided by the Tree Board. Faldet will check with Green Iowa Americorps to see if they would be interested in watering the trees. Guilgot also offered to help with watering. Hogenson will check on the availability of City equipment for volunteers to use.

The meeting adjourned at 6:30pm.

Next meeting: Thursday, March 25 at 5:30pm.

Peter van der Linden, Secretary