

Decorah Tree Board

January 28, 2021

The electronic meeting, via Zoom, was called to order by Chairman Scott Timm at 5:34pm.

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

MOTION by Pellett, second by Hall: to approve the minutes of the December 17, 2020 meeting as circulated. Motion carried.

MOTION by Hall, second by Pellett: to select Timm as Chair and van der Linden as Secretary for 2021. Motion carried.

The Tree Board has funds budgeted for educational programs and Hogenson noted that videos and press releases could be substituted for in-person workshops during the COVID pandemic. Hall suggested that a video about pruning would be especially useful to residents. Hogenson recommended press releases about homeowners' responsibilities for maintaining boulevard trees and gardens; also more information about Emerald Ash Borer including how to identify ash trees. Van der Linden suggested the Board search for existing videos about pruning and other topics, for example from the Extension Service; these could then be promoted to residents via press releases and the City's web site.

Pellett agreed to write a press release about how to identify ash trees. Timm will assist in finding graphics or photos to accompany it.

Hogenson will determine the numbers of large and small trees to be ordered for spring planting, to be purchased with grant funds. Timm noted that orders for spring planting should be placed soon.

Hogenson reported that City staff have removed 109 trees from boulevards since he started work as City Forester, with ash accounting for most of this total. Contractors hired by the City have removed another 45 trees.

The meeting adjourned at 6:13pm.

Next meeting: Thursday, February 25 at 7:00pm.

Peter van der Linden, Secretary