

Decorah Tree Board

September 30, 2021

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Scott Timm at 5:07pm in the City Council Chambers.

Present: Dick Guilgot, Tina Hall, Scott Timm, Peter van der Linden, and City Forester Sam Hogenson.

MOTION by Guilgot, second by Hall: to approve the minutes of the July 8, 2021 meeting as circulated. Motion carried.

This year's fall planting, financed by a grant from Black Hills Energy, will take place on Saturday, October 9. Participants should meet at the Street Department shop on Railroad Avenue at 9:00am. Because of a tree shortage, only six trees will be available. Hogenson will attempt to obtain the remaining trees for planting in the spring, and has notified property owners of the delay.

The large Norway maple discussed at the July 8 meeting, located at the corner of River and Main Streets, has been cabled and bolted. The City and adjacent property owner split the cost.

A flagging branch has been removed from the rock elm on 5th Avenue, another matter discussed at the July 8 meeting. The branch was not tested for Dutch elm disease, but the symptoms have not spread and the tree appears to be doing well.

Several trees on East Main Street were root pruned to protect them from serious damage during the street reconstruction project currently underway. Other trees were removed and will need to be replaced by the City. (Note: the cost of these replacement trees will not be charged to the Tree Board's budget.)

Hogenson presented a proposal from Stevenson Tree Care to treat three pin oaks for chlorosis. The trees are located on the boulevard on Ridge Road, adjacent to the Luther College apartments. Hogenson has contacted Luther College to determine if it would like to cost-share the treatment. Total cost of the proposed treatment is \$1,027.50.

MOTION by Hall, second by Guilgot: to fund half the cost of treating the pin oaks on Ridge Road. Motion carried.

Following the the October 9 planting, the Tree Board will install tree guards on small boulevard trees around town to protect their trunks from deer antler rubbing. Timm will prepare a news release.

The meeting adjourned at 6:00pm. Next meeting: October 28 at 5:00pm.

Peter van der Linden, Secretary