



TREE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2020 @ 2:10 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER

Stormi Bivin, Chairperson, opened the meeting at 2:10 PM.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Pledge of Allegiance was observed.

III. ATTENDANCE

Members present: Stormi Bivin, Richard Cosola, Debbie Evans, Adrienne Deutsch, and Kathy Siena

Members absent: Charles Sandell and Jerome Small

Staff present: Will Gurney, Landscape Superintendent, Michelle Diaz, Recording Secretary, and Lisa Nance, Zoom Moderator

IV. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

A. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

A motion was made by Stormi Bivin, seconded by Richard Cosola, to elect Debbie Evans as Chairperson of the Tree Board, unanimously approved by Stormi Bivin, Richard Cosola, Debbie Evans, Adrienne Deutsch, and Kathy Siena (5-0); with Charles Sandell and Jerome Small absent.

A motion was made by Stormi Bivin, seconded by Debbie Evans, to re-elect Richard Cosola as Vice Chairperson of the Tree Board, unanimously approved by Stormi Bivin, Richard Cosola, Debbie Evans, Adrienne Deutsch, and Kathy Siena (5-0); with Charles Sandell and Jerome Small absent.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. MARCH 4, 2020 TREE BOARD MINUTES

Stormi Bivin stated a correction be made under Section V. STAFF UPDATES, under the second paragraph, last sentence. Ms. Bivin clarified that the public forum was not held at Village Hall, but at the Wellington Community Center.

A motion was made by Richard Cosola, seconded by Adrienne Deutsch, to approve and adopt the March 4, 2020 Tree Board meeting minutes, with corrections, unanimously passed by Stormi Bivin, Richard Cosola, Debbie

Evans, Adrienne Deutsch, and Kathy Siena (5-0); with Charles Sandell and Jerome Small absent.

VI. STAFF UPDATES

A. RECENT PLANTINGS & STATUS UPDATES – WILL GURNEY

Will Gurney updated the Tree Board on recent plantings and status updates.

Mr. Gurney discussed the status of the replacement of grass infected with the Mosaic virus (Lethal Viral Necrosis). Replacements have stopped due to no observed signs of activity from the virus. In the meantime, there has been a shift in focus on balancing fertility and relieving stress on the grass, to prevent the virus from proliferating. If the virus makes a reemergence, replacements will continue.

Mr. Gurney spoke about the landscape project taking place along Flying Cow Road. One-thousand (1,000) Red Cedar trees (originally planned for National Public Lands Day) and sixty (60) Sable palm trees were planted. Numerous native plants were added to seven (7) preexisting landscape beds. New rest stops were installed for pedestrians/bikers.

Mr. Gurney informed the Tree Board that sixty (60) Pond Cypress trees and thirty (30) Slash Pine trees are scheduled to be planted in various Open Space Reserves (OSRs), throughout Wellington. Debbie Evans asked for clarification on what an OSR is. Mr. Gurney described these places as various areas throughout Wellington, designated as green/reserved areas for trees. Ms. Evans inquired if these are separate from parks/recreation and conservation areas. Mr. Gurney stated these are separate from those categories.

Mr. Gurney stated that the tree canopy in Wellington has increased by approximately over 500,000 square feet, since January 2020. Adrienne Deutsch asked how many trees apart of the canopy were native and exotic. Mr. Gurney stated the canopy is made up of 100% native trees.

Kathy Sienna informed the Tree Board that the annual tree planting for National Public Lands Day has been cancelled this year, due to COVID-19. Ms. Sienna inquired about the status of the Red Cedar tree seedlings for this event. Mr. Gurney stated the tree seedlings were planted along Flying Cow Road. Stormi Bivin advised Ms. Sienna and Mr. Gurney to coordinate rescheduling the event to utilize the remaining seedlings.

Debbie Evans asked if tree removals and plantings were being documented. Mr. Gurney stated that both of these are being documented. Ms. Evans requested these documents be brought to future meetings.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. COMMEMORATIVE TREE PROGRAM UPDATE

Tree Board discussed status updates on the Commemorative Tree Program.

Stormi Bivin stated she was able to locate the link to the Commemorative Tree Program information on the Village of Wellington's website. Ms. Bivin asked if there was a reason the PDF of the form isn't available on the website. Michelle Diaz clarified that PDFs are not permitted to be uploaded to the website, per our Communications department.

Debbie Evans asked if a plaque is always placed with the tree planted. Ms. Bivin stated that due to the form having the option for verbiage to go on the plaque, then each tree will have a plaque. Ms. Evans inquired if trees planted for the program be labelled as such on the tree planting spreadsheet. Mr. Gurney stated he can note what trees on the spreadsheet were planted for the program.

Stormi Bivin discussed an incident where a plaque was removed from one tree and placed on another tree. Mr. Gurney stated that in response to this incident, all future plaques will be cemented in the ground to prevent this from reoccurring.

B. F.L.O.W.E.R. AWARD NOMINATIONS

Tree Board discussed the F.L.O.W.E.R. Award Nominations.

Stormi Bivin asked about the status of the winners for Spring 2020. Mr. Gurney stated the plaques were delivered to the homes of the recipients, back in May. Richard Cosola discussed the possibility of showing recognition to the winners (due to the Earth/Arbor Day Event being cancelled), either through the website or the Town Crier. Michelle Diaz stated she spoke with Liz Nunez from Communications on the topic. Ms. Diaz said she would look further into this suggestion. Ms. Diaz informed members that applications should be submitted to Will Gurney and Michelle Diaz by the end of February. Debbie Evans stated that when nominating properties, it is also important to be mindful of the amount of trees on the property.

VIII. COMMENTS

Debbie Evans suggested a change be made to the Tree Board Annual Work Plan. Ms. Evans stated that at the end of each item under the "Goals" section, it should also state the month the event will occur.

A motion was made by Debbie Evans, seconded by Stormi Bivin, to approve the Tree Board Annual Work Plan 2020, with modifications, unanimously passed by Stormi Bivin, Richard Cosola, Debbie Evans, Adrienne Deutsch, and Kathy Siena (5-0); with Charles Sandell and Jerome Small absent.

Debbie Evans requested the following materials be provided to Tree Board members to reference and discuss at the next meeting:

- Map of land designations in Wellington (for conservation purposes, parks and recreation).
- Copy of the Tree Canopy study done in 2005 by American Forest.
- The final copy of the updated Land Development Regulations.

- Copy of the Land Development Manual, specifically the landscape section.

IX. ADJOURN

A motion was made by Richard Cosola, seconded by Stormi Bivin, to adjourn at 3:10 PM. The motion was unanimously passed 5-0, with Stormi Bivin, Richard Cosola, Debbie Evans, Adrienne Deutsch, and Kathy Siena; with Charles Sandell and Jerome Small absent.

Approved and Adopted: _____
Signature Date

Michelle Diaz, Recording Secretary