

**Berkley Tree Board  
Meeting Minutes  
Monday, March 8, 2021  
7:00 p.m. – Online via Zoom  
Join Zoom Meeting: <https://berkleymich.zoom.us/j/93368512902>  
Phone: 1-646-558-8656  
Meeting ID: 933 6851 2902**

**Present:** D. Hennen, D. Schueller, K. Karlis, M. Schneider, L. Fritsch, T. Losey, B. Lathrop, K. Criscenti, M. Grassa, M. Leneway

**Absent:** B. Penkala

**Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.**

**Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes** –January 11, 2021 meeting minutes reviewed and approved.

**Review and Approval of Agenda** – K. Karlis presented agenda and members approved as proposed.

**Public Comments-** none

**Welcome new board member-** Mike Leneway, works for Cranbrook, has expert background in landscaping and trees.

**Oxford Merchant Park Tree Proposal-** K. Karlis reviewed the current layout/tree placement at Oxford Park. Splash pad to be operational in April. T. McArleton of Parks & Rec would like to maintain a lot of open space. She also wants the maintenance to be reasonable for her team. All trees that are currently there have been evaluated by JH Hart Co. and deemed healthy. K. Karlis suggested the board verify species in spring when trees are leafed out. T. McArleton said she is putting aside money from the Parks & Rec budget for about ten trees. Subcommittee may meet late April/early May to discuss what trees are recommended for planting.

**5th Grade Arbor Day Poster Contest-** T. Losey shared the contest information with K. Karlis and M. Schneider. M. Schneider emailed all elementary school principals and 5th grade teachers. She will reach out to the principals and see if any students completed a poster for the contest. D. Schueller would like to know if they did, as he will reach out to the city council and have a proclamation made if someone did so.

**BPW Update-** D. Schueller. Arbor Day Foundation is not requiring an in-person community event this year. The City of Berkley has been awarded Year #31 of Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation. B. Lathrop asked if there is a sticker that can be placed on Tree City signage to show the update to 31 years of participation.

2021-22 Budget: D. Schueller has asked under the general fund for \$10,000 for the DTE 1/1 matching grant for tree planting.

For 2022-'23 fiscal year, he asked for \$15,000 to apply for a 1/1 grant for tree inventory/forestry grant.

Street tree planting budget for 2021-22- D. Schueller has asked that the budget be doubled from last year to cover planting of 200 trees. D. Hennen asked if his staff can handle the additional labor, but D. Schueller said his staff can handle the work. D. Schueller thanked D. Hennen for his concern about the DPW crew workload.

D. Hennen will work on added advertising of the free street tree program this year. The board will work on distributing flyers from the beautification committee to help spread the word.

**Grant Informaton-** T. Losey attended a virtual seminar by SEMCOG that had a lot of valuable information about grant writing.

**Tapping City Street Maple Trees for Sap- T. Losey:** T. Losey noticed someone had tapped a city tree and she contacted the city to ask. M. Baumgartner looked into the case and gave a temporary approval to the resident through March for this one occasion.

D. Schueller said Ann Arbor has an ordinance that opposes tree tapping of city trees. D. Schueller touched base with code enforcement and M. Baumgartner made the decision. D. Hennen said M. Baumgartner would like recommendations from the tree board for what should be allowed.

D. Hennen asked the board what they thought. K. Karlis recommended that we defer discussing the wording for hanging other things on trees until the next meeting. Ordinance Sec 130-41B states "No person shall fasten or hang **any material of any kind** to any public tree." This could affect various homeowners that are hanging ribbons, bird feeders, and other things from the street trees in front of their residences. K. Karlis wants to make sure this topic is made public on the agenda before we discuss it further at the Tree Board in case the public wants to attend and comment. All members agreed that tapping of city trees should not be allowed since street trees are already under stress and there is concern about maintaining their long-term health.

**Tree Guide Book- B. Lathrop:** B. Lathrop volunteered for the DDA Beautification Committee. He asked D. Schueller about planting bulbs/flowers under the trees on 12 Mile. D. Schueller is concerned about maintenance. He explained that he thinks there is a contract with a company to plant flowers.

B. Lathrop is putting together a book to update the document provided by Asia Downtin and her MSU Urban Forestry students to include additional information on trees and cultivars for residents. K. Karlis thanked him for working on this project.

**Meeting adjourned at 7:43pm.**

Next virtual meeting scheduled May 10, 2021