

Agenda for the March 16th meeting of the Bloomington Tree Commission

930 W 4th St. 9:30 a.m.

- I Approval of minutes from February meeting
- II Old Business
 - A Arbor Day celebration
 - B Tree replacement protocol
 - C IDNR grant
- III New Business
 - A Deer Park – flowering pear pruning
- IV Urban Forester’s report



**Bloomington Tree Commission
Minutes of the meeting, 16 March 2016**

Present: Kerry Bridges (ISA certified arborist); Tom Coleman, (Indiana Tree Steward of the Year 2004); George Hegeman (Professor Emeritus, Microbiology, IUB); Lee Huss, ex officio (urban forester, City of Bloomington); Dedaimia Whitney (Bloomington Environmental Commission); Mia Williams (landscape architect, Indiana University).

Absent: Laurel Cornell (chair, Professor Emeritus of Sociology and Studio Art); David Dilcher (professor emeritus, Geological Sciences, IUB).

Guest: Julie Ramey, Community Relations Manager, Parks and Recreation

MINUTES

Mia will send Dedaimia her notes from the February meeting for formatting.

OLD BUSINESS

Arbor Day celebration. Lee Huss announced that the city's Arbor Day celebration will be a short ceremony followed by tree planting, beginning at 12 p.m. Friday, 29 April, in Seminary Square Park. Mia Williams said that IU's Arbor Day celebration will be from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. on 21 April on the west side of the Mathers Museum. There will be a short tutorial, followed by tree planting, including approximately 20 trees for IU, 12-15 trees for the city, and a few trees for Burney Fischer's class.

Tree replacement protocol. Kerry Bridges began the discussion of the TC's new tree replacement policy. The TC agreed that it would be a good idea to test the policy in practice for a few months before asking the council to change the tree ordinance. This discussion led to a second topic, tree protection guidelines.

Tree protection guidelines. Dedaimia Whitney announced that the Environmental Commission has endorsed the idea of writing policy concerning tree protection during site development. Bridges suggested that much of the policy is already contained in ANSI A300, part 5 and the section on best practices, "Tree management during development." He will forward this material to Whitney. She and George Hegeman have volunteered to write a draft for the TC to consider at its next meeting.

IDNR grant. As part of its ongoing review of pesticide use in the city, Parks and Recreation wants information about EAB injections, which Huss is supplying. He says that the Urban Forestry program usually contracts out the little pesticide it needs to use. He remarked that this year is the year to save ash trees—by which he means that if trees are not injected this year, it may be too late to save them.

NEW BUSINESS

Letters to home owners. The discussion of tree protection led Huss to remark upon some pear trees in Deer Park that were "mutilated" by a person or persons who were well-meaning but uninformed. The TC agreed that Huss needs some basic letters that he can send to people about pruning and/or mulching street trees. The commission thinks that most people don't really understand what street trees are, and thought that the letters should double as an educational tool. Whitney and Hegeman will work on drafting a first paragraph for these letters, which will differentiate between privately owned trees and street trees, explain easements, and outline homeowners' responsibilities and limitations with regard to city trees.

Outreach. The commissioners generally agreed that an article in the H-T would help educate the community about tree health care. He has a presentation called "How to kill a tree." At the suggestion of the commission, he will go through the channels to see whether he can meet with an H-T reporter to turn some of the ideas in his presentation into a newspaper feature article.

URBAN FORESTER REPORT

Huss reported that plans are underway for

- the tree-celebratory concert in the park (10 June)
- the garden show at the Armory (2 April)
- tree planting for spring

NEXT MEETING, 9:30 a.m. Rose Hill office
Tree Commissioners picture day

Respectfully submitted,
Dedaimia Whitney
4/19/2016