

Minutes

City of Bloomington Tree Commission

Wednesday June 17, 2020, 9:30-10:15am

Online via Zoom

- Present: Tom Coleman, Laurel Cornell, David Dilcher, George Hegeman, David Parkhurst, Dedaimia Whitney, Mia Williams, Erin Hatch
- Erin presented the Urban Forester's Report.
- Mia Williams announced an Arborist position at IU. She forwarded the description to Tree Commission members to circulate as they feel appropriate.
- David and Tom presented the Batchelor Forest Removal letter. All Tree Commission members have agreed to sign it. It will be sent to the Herald-Times and to County Commissioners, MCPL Library Board, and MCCSC Board, among others. Erin, as a staff member, will not sign it. The Environmental Commission will consider it at their next meeting. A motion to approve and send the letter was moved, seconded, and approved unanimously.
- No minutes were taken at the May meeting. The audio transcript of the Zoom call will serve as the Minutes.
- The next meeting is Wednesday July 15, 2020, 9:30am, online or in person at Switchyard Park.
- The meeting adjourned at 10am.

To the Citizens of Monroe County:

In 2003 the Indiana Urban Forest Council presented their Project of the Year Award to the Monroe County Community School Corporation for their Batchelor Forest Project. Hundreds of our grade school kids and Monroe County citizens planted over five hundred seedlings a year, thirty different species, for eleven years on the four plus acre site. Five to six thousand trees were planted between 1999 and 2010.

There does not appear to be any institutional memory on the school board of this project.

The MCCSC has agreed to sell the site to the Monroe County Public Library. A branch library is planned which could result in the removal of as much as two thirds of the forest.

We do not question the need for a branch Library.

We do question any site that will result in the removal of vast numbers of trees that will destroy an important student environmental contribution to our community. We are known as a community that plants and cares for trees. We do not want to damage that reputation.

A Monroe County Councilman recently called what is planned "A crime against Nature".

We agree!

Another location must be selected.

The Bloomington Environmental Commission
The Bloomington Tree Commission