



**Bloomington Tree Commission  
Minutes of the meeting, 21 October 2020**

**PRESENT:** Kerry Bridges (ISA Board Certified Master Arborist); Laurel Cornell (chair, Professor Emeritus of Sociology and Studio Art); Erin Hatch (COB Urban Forester); David Dilcher (Professor Emeritus, Geological Sciences, IUB); George Hegeman (Professor Emeritus, Microbiology, IUB); David Parkhurst (Environmental Commission, Professor Emeritus, SPEA); Dedaimia Whitney (Certified Tree Steward, Master Gardener).

**ABSENT:** Tom Coleman (Professor Emeritus, Dept. of Fine Arts, IUB; Indiana Tree Steward of the Year 2004); Mia Williams (landscape architect, Indiana University).

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- Minutes from September approved.
- The next meeting of the Tree Commission will be 9:30 a.m. 18 November 2020 online.

**THANK YOU** to Dave and Tom for work on the library branch development.

**URBAN FORESTER REPORT**

The city removed a very large sugar maple in Cascades Park near the playground. Haskell Smith has earned his arborist license, so he was able to supervise the entire operation.

George asked about the 2' DBH white pine on 7<sup>th</sup> and Jefferson Street. Erin said the Streets Department has agreed to take it down.

The Parks Department will be phone interviewing applicants for the open forestry department position this coming week.

Larger projects that involve tree removal:

- (+) Miller Showers is installing a permanent sidewalk as part of an agreement with a nearby development. The North Gateway is a multi-year project to improve the appearance of the northern entrance to the city. Kerry recommends not using evergreens for the screen because of possible pest damage caused by increased dryness from climate change.
- (+) Eagle Creek Consulting is designing the erosion mitigation project in Lower Cascades Park. The existing wall along the creek will be rebuilt and redesigned. The project may require removing 22 large sycamores and other species along the creek area, from Clubhouse Drive to the sand volleyball court in Lower Cascades. The city is seeking a DNR permit, which will require 5:1 mitigation planting. The areas being considered for replanting include (1) 50-60 trees in the direct impact area (2) overflow mitigation in the Griffy dog park.
- (+) Larger scale planting projects include Southeast Park and Schmaltz Park, basically reforestation projects with several hundred plants and small trees. Erin will be siting some larger ball-and-burlap trees in the projects. These projects are

partially to switch from “low mow” to “no mow” areas. Dave Parkhurst noted that new trees are often stolen from the southeast park area.

## IU TREES

Mia has arranged for volunteers to plant IU's new trees this year. The TC likes this idea.

## ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION (Dave Parkhurst)

- (+) The BEC met last Thursday.
- (+) Citizen Mary Welch complained that the wetland in her back yard has been disrupted by a storm drain put in by the Utilities Department. Her wetland stream has disappeared. Dave said the permits were posted, and there may not much anyone can do.
- (+) The EC will return to the Environmental Justice statement drafted by the previous set of IU interns.
- (+) The BEC may join the Monroe County EC in putting out a survey.
- (+) The BEC voted unanimously to endorse the two letters regarding the library branch project. TC unanimously agreed to endorse the letters, also.
- (+) The BEC may hold its bucket list meeting earlier than January.

**TO DO:** The TC recommends that Tom Coleman design and advocate for a sign for the Bachelor Forest. Kerry recommends that MCCSC and the library adopt a management plan to protect the forest from further attempts at development. Dedaimia will contact Kerry about drafting the management plan; David will help edit.

## TREE TRAILS DISCUSSION

- (+) The TC identified several organizations as target audiences for the Tree Trails project.
- (+) They agreed to use Bryan Park and Cascades Park as starting points for the trails.
- (+) They would like to include trees in different life stages.
- (+) Mia has experience with tree tours at IU and in Portland OR.
- (+) Erin talked to Rebecca Swift, the city's natural resources coordinator, about including the Tree Trails on her electronic tour page. She was happy to cooperate.
- (+) George suggested we label trees on the tours with QXR codes to allow visitors to get information on their mobile devices. He also suggested we design our maps and symbology to look the same as IU's.
- (+) **TO DO:** Laurel asked Erin to send resource links to the TC for the minutes.

## Additional announcements

- (+) Erin took a webinar on how to use the tree inventory to manage the budget.
- (+) Dave talked to Mia about replacing a plaque on the burr oak planted in memory of George Heise.
- (+) The Planning Department may have projects to present at the next TC meeting. Laurel asked if he might present visuals for the Zoom meeting.

## TREE NEWS

City of Cambridge, Massachusetts, Urban Forestry Report, “Healthy Forest, Healthy City”:  
[https://www.cambridgema.gov/-/media/  
Files/publicworksdepartment/Forestry/healthyforesthealthycity.pdf](https://www.cambridgema.gov/-/media/Files/publicworksdepartment/Forestry/healthyforesthealthycity.pdf)

Epidemics of tree-killing diseases: [https://knowablemagazine.org/article/  
living-world/2020/the-accidental-tree-killers](https://knowablemagazine.org/article/living-world/2020/the-accidental-tree-killers)

Trees that can survive climate change: [https://www.theatlantic.com/science/  
archive/2020/10/trees-need-be-future-proofed/616660/](https://www.theatlantic.com/science/archive/2020/10/trees-need-be-future-proofed/616660/) Cambridge, Massachusetts Urban  
Forest Report

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Dedaimia Whitney**