



**Bloomington Tree Commission
Minutes of the meeting, 16 September 2020**

PRESENT: Tom Coleman, (Professor Emeritus, Dept. of Fine Arts, IUB; Indiana Tree Steward of the Year 2004); Laurel Cornell (chair, Professor Emeritus of Sociology and Studio Art); David Dilcher (Professor Emeritus, Geological Sciences, IUB); Erin Hatch (COB Urban Forester); George Hegeman (Professor Emeritus, Microbiology, IUB); David Parkhurst (Environmental Commission, Professor Emeritus, SPEA); Dedaimia Whitney (Certified Tree Steward, Master Gardener); Mia Williams (landscape architect, Indiana University).

ABSENT: Kerry Bridges (ISA Board Certified Master Arborist)

CONSENT AGENDA

- August minutes approved.
- TC will send a card to Dave Williams, who is retiring.

REPORTS

Urban forester report (Erin Hatch)

Erin will spend the day interviewing replacements for Dave Williams. Kevin Prince has resigned, and Erin is interviewing replacements.

Indiana University (Mia Williams)

Mia reported that IU's Tree Advisory Committee met last Friday. They recommended some pruning and injections for a few compromised trees with injuries possibly related to a beetle associated with Dutch elm disease seen on campus. The committee is also brainstorming ideas to sponsor tree-planting activities in late October while remaining Covid-safe. The current idea is to have 2-3 people working in small groups and not have any large group gatherings.

Environmental Commission (David Parkhurst)

David reviewed the upcoming agenda for the BEC meeting tomorrow evening, including a proposal from the Monroe County Environmental Commission to conduct a survey together. He will send the Zoom link for the meeting to TC members.

OLD BUSINESS

Update on Batchelor Forest project (Tom Coleman)

Tom met by Zoom with Marilyn Wood, chief librarian. She was concerned that there is misinformation about clear-cutting circulating in the community. She said the alternative site pointed out by several people, which would not require the removal of any trees, is not available for purchase at this time. George said he believed the purchase of the proposed site has not gone through. Tom urged everyone to write letters.

NEW BUSINESS

Reconsideration of Tree Trails (Erin Hatch).

Erin believes that Tree Trails, a project proposed before she was hired, has good potential to educate people about urban trees. Kerry Bridges, who met with Erin last week, suggested that she could use it to illustrate the environmental contributions during different stages in a tree's life cycle. Erin is thinking about putting together a presentation that the Parks Department could share with other groups that conduct nature walks.

Erin asked the TC to come up with themes that could organize different presentations, for example, tree identification, tree life cycles, the cultural/historical uses of trees, etc. She asked the following questions: How many sites seem reasonable? How much distance should the trails cover? The TC agreed to brainstorm ideas via Zoom at 10 a.m. Wednesday, 30 September, via Zoom, and follow through at the next regular meeting.

TREE NEWS

- Reuters Foundation pledges to plant trees: <https://news.trust.org/item/20200827031134-pcp97/>
- Tracing trees that need watering in Germany: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-germany-water-berlin/german-capital-launches-initiative-to-protect-trees-from-summer-heat-idUSKBN25I0HK>

NEXT MEETING

- The next meeting of the Tree Commission will be 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, 21 October 2020, by Zoom.
- The Tree Trails brainstorming session will be 10 a.m. Wednesday, 30 September, via Zoom. Erin will send a link.

Respectfully submitted,

Dedaimia Whitney
22 January 2021