

Minutes

Tree Board Meeting

October 21, 2021 at 10:00 am

In-person meeting held at City Hall, 102 Butler St., Saugatuck, MI 49453

1. **Call to Order:** Chairperson Verplank called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.
2. **Roll Call:**
 - Present:** Verplank & Schmidt
 - Absent:** Peterson
 - Others Present:** Deputy Clerk White, DPW Superintendent Herbert, DPW Employee Wendt & City Manager Heise
3. **Approval of Minutes**
 1. **Regular Tree Board Meeting Minutes – April 15, 2021:** A motion was made by Schmidt, 2nd by Verplank, to approve the minutes as presented. Upon roll call vote the motion carried 2-0.
4. **Public Comment:** None
5. **New Business:**
 - A. **Department of Public Works – Tree Work Update:** DPW Superintendent Herbert covered the tree work planned for 2021-2022. Herbert noted that most of the tree work involved the pruning of existing trees.
 - Remove/Replace:
 - 645 Grand St
 - Mason St End
 - 977 Lake St
 - 349 St. Joseph St
 - 200 Lucy St
 - 747 Butler St
 - 434 Butler St
 - 125 Mason St
 - 350 Mason St
 - 248 Mason St
 - 201 Butler St
 - 145 Spear St
 - Village Square Park SW
 - Peterson Preserve
 - Prune/Assess:
 - 436 Main St
 - 444 Main St
 - 312 Francis St
 - 638 Spear St
 - 312 St. Joseph St
 - 615 Water St
 - Willow Park

505 Water St
249 Culver St
118 Hoffman St
108 Hoffman St
444 Main St
436 Main St
127 Hoffman St
153 Elizabeth St
580 Mason St
612 Holland St
758 Pleasant St

- Additional Work:

251 North St
412 Francis St
149 Lucy St
648 Pleasant St

Herbert also mentioned the splintering of Bartlett Tree Experts. Ed Dowd, former Bartlett member, is a certified arborist and Herbert plans on working more with him as the need arises.

B. Discussion of Section 97.08 of City of Saugatuck Code of Ordinances – Holiday

Lighting: Verplank noted the early lighting of the decorative lighting around town and voiced her concerns with the violation of Section 97.08 of the City of Saugatuck Code of Ordinances, which states lighting may not be placed on trees until November 1st. Schmidt echoed Verplank's concerns about the violation of the ordinance. Verplank emphasized that there is a reason for having that ordinance in place; lights can grow into trees if placed long enough and there may be safety concerns for having dangling wires for prolonged periods of time. Verplank also stated that having lights on this early in year detracted from the specialness of the Christmas lighting and voiced concerns about the lights being a waste of energy. City Manager Heise addressed some of the concerns from the Board and mentioned that at the next Tree Board meeting, the Board should create and provide a recommendation to Council regarding the ordinance.

6. Tree Board Comments: Schmidt mentioned concerns about the potential patio project at the Butler as it could potentially affect the health of the mature willow tree in Cook Park. Schmidt advised having the tree inspected and wanted a plan created to protect the tree from the construction work. Both Schmidt and Verplank inquired about when the next Tree Board meeting would be.

7. Adjourn: Chairperson Verplank adjourned the meeting at 10:40 a.m.