



THE CITY OF THE VILLAGE OF DOUGLAS
TREE BOARD
DOUGLAS CITY HALL COUNCIL ROOM
86 W. CENTER STREET, DOUGLAS, MI
April 16, 2021 – 1:00 P.M.
REMOTE MEETING MINUTES

1. **Call to Order:** Charak called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.
2. **Roll Call:** Charak, Lion. Absent: Kyllonen
Also present: City Manager LaBombard, DPW Director Vogel, City Clerk Aalderink, Deputy Clerk Howell
3. **Election of Chair & Vice Chair:**
Lion nominated Charak to Chair.
Charak nominated Lion to Vice Chair.
Motion to approve both seats carried by voice vote.
4. **Approval of Consent Calendar:**
 - A. Agenda for April 16, 2021
 - B. Meeting minutes of December 20, 2020Motion to by Lion, with support from Charak, to approve the consent calendar as presented.
Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.
5. **Public Comments:**
 - A. Verbal (Limit of 3 minutes on agenda items only)
Suzanne Dixon: Would like to see the City of Douglas pursue the Tree City USA designation as surrounding communities have already done.
 - B. Written Communications
 1. J. VanderBeek (Re: Hemlock Invasive Species Alert) 3-12-21
Letter regarding an invasive species called the wooly algeid which affects hemlock trees, of which there are many on Douglas Beach.
The City will look into verifying if this invasive species is present there.
Betsy York: The email also points to planting in advance of the demise of the hemlock as a proactive measure.
6. **New Business:**
 - A. Quarterly Meeting Dates
Motion by Lion, with support from Charak, to approve the Tree Board 2021 quarterly meeting dates as presented.
 - B. Review Tree Ordinance
The Tree Ordinance was discussed in an attempt to understand what the ordinance says regarding membership, rights-of-way on City-owned property, and getting the tree list standardized. Discussion also took place regarding adding more members to the Tree Board, including someone from the school system and someone from the business

community, as well as updating the ordinance to remove the Douglas Advisory Council, which no longer exists.

Motion by Charak, with support from Lion, to advise the Planning Commission to remove from the Tree Board Ordinance Section 98.03, Douglas Advisory Council, and add three community members to assist the Board in their mission.

C. Point Pleasant Trees

i. Recommended List of Trees

The City is looking for a plan from the Tree Board to remove scrub trees in order to help the healthy trees and make it more open and useable by the public. It was suggested that Charak and Lion walk the property and make notes regarding what the Tree Board would like to maintain. This item should be added to the next meeting agenda with an approved list of trees for planting in the rights-of-way.

D. Schultz Park Trees

High water has killed a good portion of a line of trees on the west side of the property. MDOT owns the property and the City maintains it. At the request of the City, MDOT agreed to remove the dead trees, leaving the root balls to stabilize the bank, and replace the trees at their expense. The trees north of the pickleball courts are in what MDOT considers to be a scenic strip and they want them left untouched.

E. Douglas Beach Re-Vegetation

The City has interest in creating a capital improvement project to restore some of the vegetation on that beach and needs to know what types of trees to plant in order to put together a landscape plan. Charak will walk the area and take a look.

F. Environmental Protection Standards

i. Tree Ordinance

Need to have an ordinance that protects trees and vegetation on the shoreline banks to keep them stable.

ii. Shoreline Construction

Wikar will work with the Planning Commission on setbacks, proper construction standards, permitting, and proper oversight.

iii. Storm Water

Make sure future development isn't shifting stormwater onto other people's property or sending stormwater down the banks. Erosion from stormwater can erode the bluff on Lakeshore Drive. Charak wants a copy of the additions to the Tree Ordinance, which were submitted by a member of the community, addressing the bluff, sent to the City Council and Planning Commission. Also, would like to see a recommendation in the building permits not to park heavy equipment on the west side of Lakeshore Drive.

7. Authority Member Comments:

Charak will produce a mission statement and make a recommendation to include it in the forthcoming amended tree ordinance. He would like to make a recommendation from the Tree Board with support from City Council to become a Tree City USA. Charak would like to see the Miro property made into a community tree garden. He would like to see people in the community using licensed and bonded tree services when cutting down trees on private property, which could require a permit and fee which would go into a fund that supports tree activities.

Lion commented that it's very important for the Tree Board to be in the know of what's going on. Getting lots of comments about people cutting down trees and not replacing them. Likes moving forward with the mission statement. In favor of the Tree City USA. LaBombard suggested working with the Planning and Zoning as far as keeping up with what's happening on private property.

8. Public Comments:

Suzanne Dixon: Would like to see the Tree Ordinance give more control regarding private land as far as construction, and structure fees and permits which would go into a fund which would be used to replant trees. We should discourage removal of trees.

Daniel DeFranco: A member of the Saugatuck Township Planning Commission and also will be heading up a special committee under the Planning Commission that deals with issues of rural character and conservation. Will be looking into deficiencies of their own tree board and will be paying attention to what Douglas Tree Board is doing.

Betsy York: Elated with some remarks and ideas brought up by Charak. Would love to see the tree ordinance take on private property.

Tracy Shafroth: Appreciates the details Rich gave and is here to support the Tree Board in working further on this ordinance. Will look at other ordinances to see if there are any examples of helping to preserve trees on private land.

Charak: Thanked everyone who attended today.

9. Adjourn: Motion by Charak, with support from Lion, to adjourn the meeting at 2:05 p.m.