

**City of Kalamazoo
TREE COMMITTEE
Minutes
August 6, 2019**

Harrison Facility, Conference Room A
1415 N. Harrison, Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Members

Present: Perry Banta, Forestry Supervisor, COK
Philip Dietrich, ECC Representative
Anthony Ladd, Substitute Chairperson, Asst. City Engineer, COK
Debra Nichols, Forester, Consumers Energy
Steve Skalski, Asst. City Engineer Water Dept., COK

City Staff: Karen Rutherford, Recording Secretary

Guests: See Attached Sign in Sheet

A. CALL TO ORDER

Substitute Chairperson Anthony Ladd called the meeting to order at 2:07 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL

Substitute Chairperson Anthony Ladd completed roll call and determined the aforementioned members were present.

C. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Due to the number of guests, Substitute Chairperson Anthony Ladd stated for the interest of time the guest name would be noted on the sign in sheet.

D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

By unanimous consent the Committee adopted its meeting agenda as presented.

E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (July 2, 2019)

Committee Member Steve Skalski supported by Committee Member Perry Banta, moved approval of the July 2, 2019 Tree Committee Minutes as corrected. With a voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.

F. NEW BUSINESS

CSM Group – Bronson Hospital, Burdick St. - Tree Removal Request

Substitute Chairperson Anthony Ladd opened discussion for the tree removal at Bronson Hospital on Burdick St.

Mr. Bill Eichstaedt with CSM Group stated they are working on a project for Bronson's new cancer facility. He stated they are requesting to remove one tree from the right of way on Burdick St. located between Heilman Ct. and Vine St.

Committee Member Perry Banta asked if they explored other options for the driveway. Mr. Eichstaedt stated the site plan was approved and grading has been done.

Substitute Chairperson Anthony Ladd asked if they have a replanting plan. Mr. Eichstaedt stated there is a landscaping plan, but no trees are planned for the right of way. The approach will take up most of the property frontage along Burdick. With Google Maps the monitor, a discussion followed regarding the location for replanting.

Committee Member Perry Banta stated a tree can be planted in the new curb lawn space where there was once a road.

Committee Member Perry Banta supported by Committee Member Steve Skalski made a motion to remove one tree on S. Burdick with the condition of replanting a tree in the new curb lawn space and replant a second tree in a future space on property owned by Bronson. With a voice vote, the motion was carried unanimously.

Winchell Neighborhood – Consumers Energy Project – Tree Removals

Substitute Chairperson Anthony Ladd opened discussion for the tree removals in the Winchell Neighborhood for the Consumers Energy Project.

Committee Member Perry Banta stated this project extends from Broadway to the Phillips Substation. He also provided a list of the recommended trees for removal. With Google Maps on the monitor, Committee Member Perry Banta stated they would start at Aberdeen and Broadway and follow the route the project will take and look at each tree on the list that is recommended for removal.

Mr. Sam Chansler with Consumers Energy stated this project was looked at originally in 2016. The power line is going to be rebuilt. In reviewing the tree conditions of the power line, there are trees that have been repetitively trimmed. There are tall growing species growing directly under the power lines. Mr. Chansler stated these specific trees are growing in the City right of way and they are requesting removal of these trees. The list of trees represents the same trees from 2016.

Committee Member Perry Banta asked how the project would be constructed and would the poles be raised. Mr. Chansler stated he could not answer how the project would be constructed but he could speak about the trees and why the trees would need to be removed.

Guest asked if private trees would be removed. Mr. Chansler responded yes. Committee Member Perry Banta stated the Committee would not comment on the private trees. This would be a matter between the property owners and Consumers Energy. He stated this meeting is strictly involving the City trees in the City right of way.

Mr. Chansler stated Consumers Energy has a community meeting tentatively scheduled Sept. 25th to answer questions for work to be done.

Substitute Chairperson Anthony Ladd asked if he could explain how the trees affect the lines. Mr. Chansler responded these species have mature height of such that could interfere with the overhead conductors. Over the years they maintain and trim these trees. The trees eventually become ruined because they have been laid back so many times. There are spots that have been introduced where old pruning cuts have taken place and wood begins to rot. He stated having these species of trees under the power lines is not an ideal spot for them. The types of trees are norway maples, crimson king maples, spruce trees, red maples and silver maples. Mr. Chansler stated the ornamentals that have been planted are not a problem and would not be removed.

Committee Member Philip Dietrich asked what the mature height would be. Mr. Chansler stated if a tree has a mature height of over 30' then it becomes a problem.

Committee Member Perry Banta asked if Consumers Energy has a maintenance cycle for this type of line. Mr. Chansler responded for the 46KB Line it every 4-5 years and for the distribution that is built underneath it is a little longer than that. It depends on the history of how that circuit performs.

Committee Member Perry Banta asked for a line construction like this, where you have 3-phase up top and secondary below, are you trimming for both the 4-5 year high voltage and the secondary all at the same time. Mr. Chansler responded they would be trimming for both. A discussion followed regarding the tree removals.

Committee Member Debra Nichols asked if they would be replanting. Committee Member Perry Banta stated they would restore the lawn once the replanting takes place. Mr. Chansler stated the stumps and roots that are in a landscaped maintained lawn area will be removed and lawn restored. Depending on the weather and how the project progresses, this work will be done in the fall and/or spring. Mr. Chansler stated his goal for the project is to have a proper street tree utility management. Discussion followed.

Substitute Chairperson Anthony Ladd asked if a right of way permit has been issued. Committee Member Perry Banta stated no row permit has been issued.

Committee Member Perry Banta asked if Consumers Energy had any grants available for tree planting. Mr. Chansler responded they have a Community Tree Grant Program available to all communities and can be applied for at any time. Member Perry Banta stated the grant is for \$2,500 and he plans to apply for the grant twice to cover the costs of replanting. The grant deadline is Sept. 1, 2019. Mr. Chansler stated Consumers Energy is complying with the regulations of the Public Service Commission. A discussion followed.

Committee Member Philip Dietrich asked if removal would start in the fall. Mr. Chansler stated he has to be ahead of the line crews by 6-8 weeks. Line construction is scheduled to start in 2020.

Committee Member Perry Banta asked if Consumers Energy will be sending notification prior to the project. Mr. Chansler stated they typically go and mark the all the trees, hang door cards and knock on doors. They will send letters to the property owners for private trees as well as City owned trees that are adjacent to their property.

Guest asked what would be the size of the replacement tree and Committee Member Perry Banta responded this would be determined later as they work with Consumers Energy and the grant monies available. Discussion followed.

Mr. Chansler suggested not planting trees until the project is completed so nothing is dropped on a new tree. Committee Member Perry Banta stated replanting will follow the completion of the project.

Perry made a motion to allow Consumers Energy to remove the trees on the list he provided to the Tree Committee to be done in two timely parts with the following conditions:

1. Consumers Energy will remove/collect all wood and debris. They would be allowed a seven-day grace period for wood 4" or larger in diameter to set on the City right of way for public use. If not collected within seven days, Consumers Energy would be responsible to collect that wood.
2. Consumers Energy must notify adjacent property owners of City tree removal prior to removal. Consumers Energy must leave a door card and send a letter to the property owner.
3. Consumers Energy agrees to partner with the City for stump grinding including turf restoration which includes black dirt and grass seed.
4. Consumers Energy must hold a neighborhood meeting with private residents to explain the scope of the project prior to the City's approval of a right of way permit.

A discussion followed regarding the motion made.

Committee Member Debra Nichols supported by Committee Member Steve Skalski made a motion to allow Consumers Energy to remove the trees on the list he provided to the Tree Committee to be done in two timely parts with the conditions as follows:

- 1. Consumers Energy will remove/collect all wood and debris. They would be allowed a seven-day grace period for wood 4" or larger in diameter to set on the City right of way for public use. If not collected within seven days, Consumers Energy would be responsible to collect that wood.**
- 2. Consumers Energy must notify adjacent property owners of City tree removal prior to removal. Consumers Energy must leave a door card and send a letter to the property owner.**
- 3. Consumers Energy agrees to partner with the City for stump grinding including turf restoration which includes black dirt and grass seed.**

4. **Consumers Energy must hold a neighborhood meeting with private residents to explain the scope of the project prior to the City's approval of a right of way permit.**

With a voice vote, the motion was carried unanimously.

G. OLD BUSINESS

GPS Location of Trees in Crane Park

Substitute Chairperson Anthony Ladd opened discussion for the GPS location of trees in Crane Park. Committee Member Perry Banta stated Neal Conway is working on a test for the QR code. Once the test and format are complete, then they can complete the list of 26 codes and have them made for the plaques.

H. PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment was made during the Consumers Energy Project in the Winchell neighborhood for tree removals.

I. COMMITTEE COMMENTS

Committee Member Philip Dietrich asked for an updated regarding the pear trees on Alcott St. for the DHHS project. Committee Member Perry Banta stated the trees have not been damaged anymore but he will not know the extent of the root damage until spring time.

J. ADJOURNMENT

Substitute Chairperson Anthony Ladd adjourned the meeting at 4:07 p.m.

Submitted by: Karen Rutherford Date: 9-3-19
Recording Secretary

Approved by: Orvin Dorr Date: 9-4-19
Staff Liaison

TREE COMMITTEE

Sign-In Sheet
 August 6, 2019

<u>NAME (Please Print)</u>	<u>CONTACT INFORMATION (Please Print)</u>
<u>Pete Kusner</u>	<u>OWMANONS & WINCHEL NEIGHBORHOOD.ORG</u>
<u>MARK HOFFMAN</u>	<u>M.HOFFMAN@KATSEC.COM</u>
<u>Jessybe McCormick</u>	<u>Margina amb 42 @ AOL.COM</u>
<u>AL + JUDY ROSENTHAL</u>	<u>ALVIN.ROSENTHAL@WMICH.EDU</u>
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<u>Bob Eby</u>	<u>517 RR 2228</u>
<u>Sam Chasler</u>	<u>Samual.chasler@cmsenergy.com</u>
<u>Terry Jackson</u>	<u>aberzool7@gmail.com</u>
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<u>Bruce Reeder</u>	
<u>Patricia Jackson</u>	
<u>Sheryl Swodzinski</u>	<u>cookontherun@ameritech.net</u>

TREE COMMITTEE

Sign-In Sheet
August 6, 2019

NAME (Please Print)

Perry Banta

Deborah Nichols

Steve Stalcki

Bill Eichstaedt

Anthony Lind

Patrick O'Brien

Patrick Wheeler

Elia Rosetta

Beverly Grambau

Kristen Grinnis

Gregory Moore

Phil Dietrich

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Consumer's Energy Removal List - Lindbergh Project (Phillips Sub station upgrade)

Address:	Species
2027 Broadway	Crimson King Maple
2035 Broadway	Red Maple & Crimson King Maple
2115 Broadway	(2) Norway Maples
2320 Crosswind	(2) Norway Maples
2316 Winchell	(2) Spruce Trees
2407 Broadway	(2) Norway Maples
2503 Broadway	Crimson King Maple & Red Maple
2327 Loraine	Norway Maple and White Pine
2248 Crest	Oak, (2) Elm & (2) Maple
2318 Crest	(9) Maple, & Hickory
2308 Crest	(5) Maple & Elm
2236 Crest	Oak, Maple & Boxelder

*24 in wood areas and 22 in turf areas.

1331 Whites	Maple
442 Fairfax	Norway Maple
414 Fairfax	Norway Maple
406 Fairfax	(3) Norway Maple
NE Whitcomb and S Park	Crimson King Maple & Calgary Pear
318 Whitcomb	Silver Maple
312 Whitcomb	(2) Silver Maple
308 Whitcomb	Red Maple
304 Whitcomb	Silver Maple
232 Whitcomb	Sycamore
226 Whitcomb	Silver Maple
220 Whitcomb	Silver Maple
216 Whitcomb	Kentucky Coffee Tree

*17 in turf areas.