



Tree Committee Meeting Minutes Tuesday, July 1st, 2025, at 2:00 pm

Members Present:

Brian LaBelle, City of Kalamazoo – via Teams
Dennis Randolph, City of Kalamazoo
Mohith Reddy, City of Kalamazoo
Caleb Thompson, Consumers Energy, LVD Forestry Supervisor

Others Present:

Anna Crandall, City of Kalamazoo
Ryan Johnson, PLA, Progressive Companies
Tom Stanek, Owen-Ames-Kimball Co.

A. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 pm by Dennis Randolph
Roll Call - completed, quorum is present

B. Introduction of Guests

Anna Crandall, City of Kalamazoo
Ryan Johnson, PLA, Progressive Companies
Tom Stanek, Owen, Ames, Kimball

C. Approval of Agenda

Dennis Randolph made a motion to approve the Agenda for July 1st, 2025. Second by Mohith Reddy. **Motion passed.**

D. Approval of Minutes

Dennis Randolph made a motion to approve the minutes for the June 3rd, 2025, Tree Committee Meeting. Second by Mohith Reddy. **Motion passed.**

E. New Business

1. 2045 E Michigan Avenue – Anna Crandall
Water Station 5, which has been in existence since 1914, is our current project to

consolidate Station 5 with Station 14 which is located at Spring Valley Park. Here we will build a new PFAS treatment and Iron removal treatment plant at this location. Anna directed the participants to the plans that were put up on the monitor. These plans show the layout of the plan and call out the tree removals. Anna stated that there is a need to take out fifteen (15) more trees due to new infrastructure installations and the grading limits to ensure we are not impacting roots in the grading process.

Anna attended the Natural Features Protection Board and all the NFP ordinance-protected trees will be protected according to that ordinance. None of the fifteen (15) trees we are asking to remove are protected trees.

The proposed landscaping plan was reviewed by the NFP and one of the tree species they did not want to put back is the Colorado Spruce, so a different type of spruce will be put back instead from the NFP list. The landscaping plan has 87 trees going back on that site.

Anna explained that this is the third time she has been in front of the Committee for this project. The first attendance was regarding the broad clearing of the site and at that time the requirement of the Tree Committee was to have the evaluation completed by a Forester and that was completed. The final numbers are 16 tree removals, and 87 trees will be planted.

Dennis Randolph stated that the final numbers are above the 4-1 ratio that was expected and asked the Committee if they had any questions or concerns.

Discussion ensued.

Brian LaBelle stated that Anna Crandall may want to put something in the purchase agreement that the new trees be watered well during the summer months for several years to ensure their survival. Anna responded that she would ensure that they are planted with the appropriate spacing and will check on the watering and warranty for these trees.

After reviewing all the trees and their replacements, Dennis Randolph made a motion to approve the request to take out a total of sixteen trees for this new construction with the stipulation that Anna Crandall will provide the Committee with the final revision of the plan. Seconded by Mohith Reddy, **Motion passed.**

2. Kalamazoo College West Main Dorm project

Ryan Johnson, Progressive Companies, and Tom Stanek, Owen-Ames-Kimball Co. introduced themselves. Ryan stated that he emailed Brian LaBelle the digital copy of the plans. They are working on a 200-bed residence hall for K-College which is located on West Main between Acker and Catherine on the west side. All the trees that are in the right-of-way were surveyed and there are 16 total trees; 4 Northern Red

Oaks, 3 Eastern Redbuds, 1 American Elm, 4 Silver Maples, 1 Purple Leaf Plum, 2 Norway Maples, and 1 Callery Pear. Caliber ranges from a max of 34" on one of the Northern Red Oaks down to 2" on various species. These trees are mostly along Catherine and a little to the east of Catherine. The condition of these trees is 81% good, and 19% are fair. Suitability for restoration is 13% as high, so 81%, 1 one of which was moderate at 6% and two trees at 13%, and the low are two Elms that are located on Catherine and a Norway Maple that are already impacting the utility lines.

Ryan added that Dennis Randolph was recently onsite and that the City had recently planted some trees along Catherine within the right-of-way and they documented five (5) of them. These were Eastern Redbuds, Purple Leaf Plums, and Silver Maple. At this time, we are requesting that they relocate these five (5) trees to another location on the campus, and then when construction is done, they will put five (5) trees back in the same location. Brian LaBelle stated that he does not want a Silver Maple back and wants to replace that with something else.

The second request is along West Main between Acker and Catherine just north of the new residence hall, where there are Northern Red Maples and big, beautiful trees. One of the requests we have is can we remove the dead branches that are within the trees right now and can we selectively prune the branches so that when they go to do the construction that they don't impact the trees. They would love to have Brian LaBelle on-site to help guide the pruning so that they do not negatively impact these trees.

Discussion ensued.

Caleb Thompson with Consumers will go check the lines on Catherine and make sure they are good at proceeding with tree pruning and removal.

****Caleb did go to Catherine Street directly after the meeting and reported the following:**

"I went over to Catherine Street to assess what lines the trees are in that K-College is proposing removal of. Trees 6 and 11 are within proximity to the open 3-wire secondary line. Consumers or a line-certified private company would have to trim away from those approximately 3-5' before most other residential companies would remove the trees."

Mohith Reddy made a motion to approve the plan for K-College to remove five (5) trees from the right-of-way and replace them once construction is completed. Approval is also granted to trim and prune trees as necessary to allow for construction vehicles, etc. to get on equipment and materials on and off the construction site. Brian LaBelle will be present to approve the tree pruning plan prior to anything being pruned. Second by Caleb Thompson. **Motion passed.**

F. Old Business – Nothing today

G. Action Items – No updates today due to continued storm clean-up

H. Public Comment – No Public Comments

I. Committee Comments

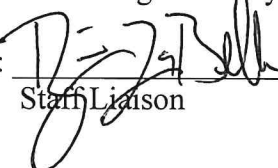
J. Adjournment

Dennis Randolph made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Second by Caleb Thompson.
Motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 2:38 pm

Next meeting will be held on August 5th, 2025, starting at 2:00 pm, located at the
Stockbridge Facility, 415 E Stockbridge Avenue, Kalamazoo, MI 49001

Submitted by: 
Recording Secretary

Date: 8.13.25

Approved by: 
Staff Liaison

Date: 8-13-25