

**Tree Board Minutes**  
**Tuesday March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025, 4:30 pm**  
**115 N 3<sup>rd</sup> Street**

**City Hall Conference Room**

Attendees: Grant Afflerbaugh, Darin DeHaan, Mark Herman, Cheryl Hilton, Caleb Jenks, Tom Pacey, Josh Pickering, Jordan Plock, and Terry Schuster.

Mark Herman called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm.

No public comment.

Mark Herman moved to approve the November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024 minutes, Seconded by Jordan Plock.

Motion carried. No Nays.

**Ogle County Soil and Water Conservation Tree Sale:** Darin DeHaan said not many people know about the tree sale and he encouraged community members to reach out to get them.

**How to: Review/Update Approved Tree List:** A work session will be held at the next meeting to go over the current tree list. The committee agreed to review the list of approved trees annually. Josh Pickering is working towards becoming a certified arborist. He is a member of the city's public works department.

**Arbor Day Celebration:** A tree planting will be scheduled with community and committee members in attendance.

**Bird City USA Designation:** Terry Schuster spoke to the committee about the potential for the city to become a Bird City. The Bird City designation works with the Tree City USA designation. The Audubon Society helps to guide the program. A list of requirements was presented to the committee. Many of the requirements are already being met in the community. They discussed partnerships with other community organizations and items that could be worked on prior to applying for the designation.

**Other Business:** Jordan Plock reported on the tree replacement program. He said twenty-five trees have been purchased and eighteen have been planted. He would like more community interest before purchasing another twenty-five trees. The informational signs with QR codes have been ordered. Tom Pacey said he has discussed the Living Lands and Waters million trees incentive with Steve Rypkema. He wondered if there was any interest for the city to receive some of these small saplings. Grant Afflerbaugh asked if the city has a place to plant the saplings. Darin DeHaan said there may be space by the city dog park.

**Future meeting dates for 2025:** City Hall Conference Room at 4:30 pm. May 20<sup>th</sup>, July 15<sup>th</sup>, and September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

Meeting adjourned at 5:06 pm.

Submitted by Cheryl Hilton, City Clerk.