

TREE BOARD MINUTES FROM JANUARY 8, 2025

Attendees: Karen Cox, Karen Jaunsen, Mary Suhler, Ryan Wilson, Tony Assaro, Kevin Stingle, Polly Karr, Kim McCluskey, and guest, Justice Hudson.

Two new members were appointed by the mayor: Polly Karr (Ward 5) and Kim McCluskey (Ward 4).

Tree City USA application was submitted at end of last year.

If the Green and Healthy Living Grant is awarded to Wheeling, the funds will be used first to prune and maintain street trees and second to expand green space.

Discussion of when to hold this year's Arbor Day Celebration. Last year's celebration had to be moved at the last minute because our chosen site on Wheeling Island was flooded, so Jaunsen would like a later day than WV Arbor Day. Cox expressed concern that National Arbor Day could be too busy for WV Division of Forestry to attend. Jaunsen followed up with Bob and Sam, and they asked us to choose any other weekday, preferably not a Friday. Note: the trees ordered for Wheeling this year are a Swamp Chestnut Oak and an American Beech, both of which are large when mature.

Reminder of Previous Arbor Day Locations:

2021: Heritage Port (scarlet oak - still alive).

2022: Oglebay above Schenk Lake; second tree from WV Division of Forestry planted in Warwood's Garden Park with PreK class (hornbeam and sourwood - neither still alive).

2023: Tunnel Green Dog Park (linden survived, not the maple).

2024: Schrader; second tree planted two weeks later at Wheeling Island Marina (both hornbeams - still alive).

Cox to contact Sean Duffy about providing a Lunch with Books training on trees (e.g., planting and pruning); also, to let him know that she could be available if another person has to cancel their presentation.

Guest Justice Hudson spoke about some of the initiatives at the Ohio County Solid Waste Authority, including composting and in the future mulch (if a grant will cover the cost of an industrial-sized wood chipper). He could potentially have a litter walk on the same day as one of our tree plantings.

Next Meeting: 05 Feb 2025 at 3:30 PM in the Ohio County Public Library Classroom