

ANCHORAGE FORESTRY BOARD
March 1, 2021 - via Zoom

ATTENDEES Lucy Spickard, Chair; Adele McCoy; Jan Ruzich; Ellen Welham; Diane McAllister; Paul Wessel; Nancy Wilkinson; Jason Walters; Reneé Major, City Administrator; Andrea Hanlon, City Forester

CALL TO ORDER Lucy called the meeting to order at 8:45 a.m.

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY MINUTES Lucy had previously emailed the February minutes to Board members. Nancy moved to approve the February minutes; Jan seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

FORESTER REPORT (Andrea)

February permits: There were 5 permits for a total of 29 trees, one of which was Ash. Reneé explained that one of the permits requested 20 trees to be removed; the residents intended to clear out a wooded area. None of those trees was a canopy tree.

Fines and appeals: There were no fines or appeals in February.

Change to January permit data: Reneé informed that LG&E's January permits were not recorded in the February minutes. In January, there were an additional 17 permits for 20 trees, including 9 Ash, all to be removed by LG&E.

Discussion of revised procedures for permits: Going forward, Lucy will be informed of any permits for removal of more than 6 trees, and she will contact Andrea regarding any questions. It is hoped that this procedure will aid Lucy and other Board members in responding to residents' inquiries about observed tree removals.

HAZARDOUS TREES Hazardous tree removal is underway. Reneé explained that the contractor who removes the trees has been accorded the right to keep and sell the wood in exchange for a favorable rate.

ARBOR DAY EVENT

Tree Giveaway: March 17-18, 7:00 a.m.-3:30 p. m. at Public Works

Traffic signs: Gary Burkhead, Director of Public Works, has the yard signs used in last year's Giveaway.

Appointments for pick-up: Residents have been asked to call City Hall to schedule their tree pick-up times.

Program: In lieu of an in-person program, residents have been encouraged to view children's activities and informational videos at the Arbor Day Foundation's website (<https://www.arborday.org/kids/> and <https://www.arborday.org/trees/video-library.cfm>).

The Anchor Age: Information about the event and the trees to be offered has been published in the March issue.

Banner: Paul has obtained the banner. A detachable section has been added to announce this year's Tree Giveaway procedure; it can be replaced for different announcements as needed in the future.

Volunteer schedules: Board members have volunteered to help unload the trees at delivery on March 15 and at the Giveaway on March 17.

ReachAlert: Ellen will contact City Hall about sending a ReachAlert reminder regarding the event.

OLD BUSINESS

Ridge Road pruning and clean-up project: This week, Jan will verify that the tags identifying the work to be done by Public Works are on the trees.

Pruning: Nancy inquired whether instruction for Public Works staff about pruning would be helpful. Andrea will discuss with Public Works. The Board discussed the possibility of Andrea's also providing pruning instruction at a future Board meeting.

Forestry library: City Council has donated a copy of the book *The Spirit of Anchorage 2020*, published by resident Jane Brown.

NEW BUSINESS

Tree City USA Virtual Conference (Lucy): Lucy attended the virtual conference. She reported that our volunteer hours far exceed the average among Tree City USA cities. She also noted a recommendation to limit planting of any single tree species to 5% in order to avoid an overabundance of any one type and the risk that many trees could be destroyed simultaneously by a particular disease. For this reason, she recommended we not offer as many maples through our programs as we have in the past.

Arbor Day Foundation brochures (Lucy): Lucy has inventoried the brochures available at City Hall and will order more of the two about pruning new and mature trees. They are sold in packs of 100 for \$16 each; the cost to ship is \$18. Reneé suggested handing out brochures about caring for young trees at the Giveaway.

Leaf collection (Paul): Paul will contact Miller Mowing for discussion about a leaf collection program in Anchorage.

THE ANCHOR AGE NEWSLETTER - April 2021 (Ellen)

The article will include a review of the Arbor Day Event, a reminder for residents to plant their new trees soon, and encouragement to apply tree guards and watering donuts, both of which can be purchased at City Hall.

CITY COUNCIL REPORT (Lucy): Lucy gave the report.

ADJOURNMENT: Lucy adjourned the meeting at 9:30 a.m.

NEXT MEETING: Monday, April 5, 2021; 8:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Ellen Welham