



CITY OF LOWELL
ARBOR BOARD AGENDA

MONDAY, MARCH 13, 2017 AT 12 NOON

1. CALL TO ORDER; ROLL CALL
2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA
3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING(S)
 - a. October 10, 2016 – Regular Meeting
4. REVIEW FINANCIAL REPORTS – Provided at the meeting.
5. CITIZEN COMMENTS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA
6. OLD BUSINESS
 - a. Tree Complaint on Lafayette
7. NEW BUSINESS
 - a. Election of Chair
 - b. Approve 2017 Meeting Dates
 - c. Comprehensive Tree Plan
 - d. Spring Plantings
 - e. Tree Complaint at N. West Street
 - f. Request to Harvest Walnut Tree near the Wastewater Plant
 - g. Trees in front of Big Boiler
 - h. Compensation Cut – Recommendation and Request Tree Donation
 - i. Consider Business Selection for Arbor Day Tree (Possible Seedling Donations)
8. BOARDMEMBER COMMENTS
9. ADJOURNMENT

ARBOR BOARD OF LOWELL
MONDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2016
12 P.M.

1. **CALL TO ORDER; ROLL CALL**

The Meeting was called to order at 12:06 p.m. and the roll was called.

Present: Jim Hodges, Diane LaWarre, Melissa Spino and Chair Reagan (arrived at 12:15).

Absent: Perry Beachum

Also Present: Mike Burns, Sue Ullery and Rich LaBombard.

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

IT WAS MOVED BY LAWARRE and seconded by SPINO to approve the agenda as presented.

YES: 4. NO: 0. ABSENT: 1. MOTION CARRIED.

3. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES.**

IT WAS MOVED BY LAWARRE and seconded by SPINO to approve the regular minutes of the September 12, 2016 meeting as corrected.

YES: 4. NO: 0. ABSENT: 1. MOTION CARRIED.

4. **REVIEW FINANCIAL REPORTS.**

Melissa Spino mentioned the idea of providing small seedling trees to the community. Mike Burns noted this could be done in coordination with the celebration of Arbor Day.

Jim Hodges suggested spending approximately \$12,000 and leave the remaining amount.

Diane LaWarre stated Curtis Cleaners will be removing some trees due to their new addition. Maybe the Arbor Board could provide some type of replacement trees?

IT WAS MOVED BY SPINO and seconded by LAWARRE to approve the financial reports as presented.

YES: 4. NO: 0. ABSENT: 1. MOTION CARRIED.

5. **CITIZEN COMMENTS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA.**

No comments were received.

6. **OLD BUSINESS.**

- a. Tree Plantings at Pebble Beach Apartments/Stoney Lakeside Park. Rich LaBombard noted five trees will be planted at Pebble Beach Apartments and two will be transplanted.
- b. Tree for Jim Hall. Rich LaBombard stated the tree will be planted near the canoe launch. Jim Reagan suggested some type of maple. Melissa Spino suggested a crimson king.
- c. M21 Project – Placement of Two New Trees. Replacement trees were discussed. Single stem service berries and red buds were suggested. Mike Burns questioned if the trees were salt tolerant. Spino stated she would forward an email.
- d. Tree Removal – City Hall. Diane LaWarre commented on removing four trees and keeping two. Mike Burns suggested spraying the trees to prevent the berries from dropping. If this does not work next year then consider removal.

IT WAS MOVED BY LAWARRE and seconded by SPINO to spray the trees first to see if this helps keep the berries from falling.

YES: 4. NO: 0. ABSENT: 1. MOTION CARRIED.

- e. Lafayette Tree. The board discussed the tree on Lafayette. It has a heavy lean with a utility pole nearby.

Jim Reagan reminded the board why they were formed. He didn't mind trimming and suggested the slope of the curb and angle of the tree be measured. Jim Hodges believed the life expectancy of the tree did not look promising, but wasn't ready for it to come down. However, we also need to respect the owner. By general consensus, the board agreed to review the tree at its April meeting.

7. **NEW BUSINESS.**

- a. Fall Plantings. The board discussed possible fall plantings and decided to purchase three to five trees for the S. Monroe parking lot. Diane LaWarre questioned the idea of planting trees at Creekside Park. Rich LaBombard stated he would put a plan together. The board also agreed to plant three to four trees along the small strip of land the City owns near Walgreens. Further discussion was held regarding Creekside Park and Melissa Spino suggested five evergreens be planted along the north line between Lighthouse and the park. Colorado spruce, black hill and fat boy trees were all considered.
- b. Tree Removal – 200 Block of W. Main. Rich LaBombard presented pictures of the trees to be removed and suggested serviceberry trees. Melissa Spino suggested something smaller and salt tolerant. By general consensus, the board agreed.

8. **BOARDMEMBERS COMMENTS.**

No comments were received.

IT WAS MOVED BY LAWARRE and seconded by SPINO to adjourn at 12:46 p.m.

James E. Reagan, Chair

Susan Ullery, Recording Secretary



March 8. 2017

TREE FUND BEG. BALANCE **\$14,531.75**

Total Revenues: **\$14,531.75**

1/13/2017 Terra Verde \$8,130.00 fall plantings

Total Expenditures: **\$8,130.00**

Ending Balance **\$6,401.75**



301 East Main Street
Lowell, Michigan 49331
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2017 ARBOR BOARD MEETING DATES
12:00 NOON
FLAT RIVER ROOM – FIRST FLOOR

January	9	July	10
February	13	August	14
March	13	September	11
April	10	October	9
May	8	November	13
June	12	December	11

Arbor Board

Official Comprehensive Tree Plan 2017-2018

Report to the Lowell City Council

Introduction

An urban forest is a valuable asset to any city. Trees improve the quality of our air and water, reduce our energy costs by providing shade, they reduce noise pollution, increase our property values, and make a neighborhood a more attractive and desirable place to live, work, and shop.

Trees have other benefits, too. Especially in an urban environment, tree canopies filter and absorb toxic gases including carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide and sulphur dioxide. Trees have also been shown to be very effective at trapping fine dusts and toxic particles, the trapped dust being washed to the ground by rain.

If you look out your window and see a tree, do you know what kind of a tree it is? Do you know how healthy it is? Do you know how old it is? Does it matter?

Benefits of Community Trees: As architectural elements, trees create interest with their ever changing colors and textures. They act as unifiers, pulling together disparate elements in the urban landscape. They serve to soften and smooth (or de-emphasize) harsh angles and lines of individual buildings.

As articulators, trees help to clarify, delineate, and emphasize areas. Because of their natural beauty, trees help to humanize harsh city landscapes by encouraging people to stop, reflect, and relax. Trees modify the urban climate by slowing wind movement, reducing irritating noise levels, controlling glare and reflection from buildings, cooling city streets in summer, and purifying air as they filter out pollutants and add oxygen to the immediate environment.

Properly placed trees can reduce residential heating and cooling costs by an estimated 20 to 50 percent. Trees also have real estate value. According to the U.S. Forest Service, trees increase property values by 10 to 15 percent.

Roles and Responsibilities

The general powers granted to the City of Lowell through its charter define the role of the City Council, the Arbor Board and the City Manager (and staff). Generally, the charter states the following under Section 3.1:

Providing for the control over all trees, shrubs and plants in the public streets, highways, parks, or other public places in the City, all dead and diseased trees on private property and trees on private property overhanging the street, sidewalk, or public places, including the removal thereof and assessing the cost thereof against the abutting property as a special assessment.

City Council: The City Council has overall responsibility for setting policy and vision and ensuring that activities of the Arbor Board and the City Manager relating to trees support the overall vision and mission. Specifically the City Council:

- Consents to appointments to the Arbor Board as directed by the Mayor.
- Approves an annual plan submitted to the Council by the Arbor Board.
- Approves a budget that appropriates resources to implement the annual plan and for other tree-related activities.
- Sets fees and special assessment districts for removal and replacement of trees.

City Arbor Board: The Arbor Board was organized in 2007 in response to citizen concerns that action needed to be taken to offset the impact of trees being removed through infrastructure growth and improvements. At the time, the city was lacking an overall policy pertaining to the removal and replacement of trees within the community. With the creation of the Arbor Board there is greater interaction between citizens and city staff that results in the creation and implementation of a long-term plan.

The duties and responsibilities of the Lowell Arbor Board are defined in Chapter 23 of the Code of Ordinances for the City of Lowell. Specifically the Arbor Board:

- Shall study, investigate, counsel, and develop, annually update and administer a written plan for the care preservation, pruning, planting, replanting, removal or disposition of trees and shrubs in public parks, along public streets and roads, within public right-of-ways and within other public areas.
- At the request of the City Council, consider, investigate, make findings, and report and make recommendations on any matter or question within the scope of its work.
- Work with the City Manager and staff to administer the Comprehensive Tree Plan.

City Manager and Staff: The City Manager has specific duties outlined in the City Charter relating to trees and carries out these duties with the assistance of qualified staff. Specifically the City Manager must:

- Provide technical assistance to the Arbor Board and ensure that the Comprehensive Tree Plan is implemented.
- Accept application from any person desiring to plant shade or ornamental trees in any public right-of-way and make a determination providing whether or not such trees may be planted.
- Authorize trimming of trees standing in or that may overhang any highways, streets, avenues, or which in any manner obstruct the public lighting of the city.

- Authorize the removal of an existing tree, shrub or other woody plant located in the street right-of-way, a city park, or other city-owned property.
- Authorize the planting and spacing of new trees in accordance with prescribed planting practices. See attached guidelines.
- Ensure that provisions of the City Code of Ordinances relating to noxious shrubs, weeds and grass are enforced.

Comprehensive Tree Plan for the City of Lowell

The Vision Statement: It is the intent of the Arbor Board to seek input from the community as to the direction and accomplishments to be pursued by the Arbor Board. This can be done through community meetings or on-line surveys utilizing the city website. One significant goal should be for the planting and the continuing maintenance of trees along West Main Street. The preferred plan is to locate trees within the highway right-of-way, placement on private property would be an acceptable alternative. Although the economy has been slow to recover Lowell is fortunate to have the financial support of our local foundations for our continued support.

The Plan Area: For the purposes of defining the plan area the City of Lowell is divided into several geographical areas. The Flat River will define the East and West boundaries of the city and Main Street will define the northern and southern boundaries. Additionally, we can further define Lowell by designating generic “Downtown Shopping Areas” and “West Main Shopping Areas.” If any additional areas are to be defined, they will be outlined by utilizing common street names.

The Goal(s): To maintain, at a minimum, and to improve on the Urban Forest Canopy within the city proper. To date, we have not been restrictive in our areas of involvement, placing trees where we found areas of need. This includes residential neighborhoods, city park properties and commercial districts. Recently, significant amounts of trees throughout the community have been devastated by insect infestation, thereby causing the loss of tree cover and inventory. A significant cost will be incurred in the coming year(s) and may curtail some of the planting progress. Fortunately this is being offset by progress in the past few years.

To date, the Arbor Board has authorized the installation of 701 trees of various varieties throughout the community. Tree selections and tree planting has been accomplished through the use of selected contractors, under the direct supervision of the Department of Public Works.

This has been done with the financial participation from the City of Lowell through Lowell Light and Power, the LCTV Fund, and the Look Fund and the very generous support of the Lowell Area Community Fund. It will be our intent to continue to utilize funds from these various community sources on, at least, an annual basis.

Comprehensive Tree Plan Areas by Zone

Zone 1 – North / East Side Lowell

1. Removal of selected dead trees from street parkways.
2. Selected thinning and pruning of pine forest at Washington Street city property.
3. Maintain and trim trees and remove along ROW and offer replacement trees to be planted on residential properties as budget permits.

Zone 2 – South / East Side Lowell

1. Maintain and trim trees along ROW when needed.
2. Maintain and trim trees and remove along ROW and offer replacement trees to be planted on residential properties as budget permits.
3. Help DDA incorporate trees in the South Monroe parking lot.

Zone 3 – Downtown/Riverwalk

1. It is suggested that the Arbor Board take over the responsibilities of planting from the DDA, allowing the DDA to concentrate on development, and to provide the Arbor Board with coordinating planting activities throughout the community. It is also intended to coordinate all planting efforts with the Showboat Garden Club to minimize duplication of effort.
2. Maintain and add trees where appropriate along Riverwalk Extension.
3. Assist with landscaping at library as budget allows.

Zone 4 – West Main Shopping Area

1. Annual budgeting should include tree planting in this area. Our hope is that we will eventually be allowed by the state and county, to plant within the right-of-way. In the meantime, we should concentrate on planting on private property fronting Main Street.

Zone 5 – North / West Side of Lowell

1. Add trees along trail/extension – Litehouse pipeline to bio-digester.

Zone 6 – South / West Side of Lowell

1. Add trees adjacent to the Norm Borgerson substation – Bowes Road.

Implementation Tree Plan for 2016

- 1, Zone 5, Item #3. Add trees along trail/extension – Litehouse pipeline – bio-digester
- 2, It is suggested that the Arbor Board take over the responsibilities of planting from the DDA, allowing the DDA to concentrate on development, and to provide the Arbor Board with coordinating planting activities throughout the community. It is also intended to coordinate all planting efforts with the Showboat Garden Club to minimize duplication of effort.

Projected Budget: It is anticipated that a budget of \$ will be needed in order to carry out the Implementation Plan for spring 2017.

Submitted by the Lowell Arbor Board

Jim Reagan, Chair

Perry Beachum

Jim Hodges

Diane LaWarre

Melissa Spino

Design Tips & Guidelines: Spacing

Many neglect to space their trees properly which leads to overgrown, crowded conditions. This is detrimental to your trees' nutrient intake and overall health.

- For trees which mature greater than 60 feet, plant a minimum 20 feet from a building and 40 feet apart.
- For tree which mature between 30 and 60 feet, plant a minimum 15 feet from a building and 35 feet apart.
- For trees which mature less than 30 feet, plant a minimum 10 feet from a building and 15 feet apart.
- Plant trees no less than 15 feet from a driveway, 10 feet from a utility pole, and 30 feet from an intersection.
- Do not plant trees that grow over 20 feet tall under power lines.

Tiny insects pose huge risk for black walnut trees

Thousand cankers disease (TCD) is not yet in Michigan but has already been discovered in Ohio and Indiana. This fungal pathogen is responsible for spreading TCD, threatening the widespread health of black walnut trees across Michigan.

Posted on July 20, 2016 by [Russell Kidd and Georgia Peterson](#)

(http://msue.anr.msu.edu/experts/russell_p_kidd), Michigan State University Extension



Everybody roots for the little guy, right? Rooting for the underdog always seems to capture both sports fans' and the media's attention. In the case of a new invasive forest health problem threatening [black walnut \(*Juglans nigra*\)](#)

https://www.na.fs.fed.us/pubs/silvics_manual/volume_2/juglans/nigra.htm trees, it's a "little guy" that poses a huge threat to our black walnut resource in much of the United States.

The invasive pest problem that is threatening black walnut trees is called [thousand cankers disease \(TCD\)](#) (<http://www.thousandcankers.com/home.php>). It is described as a disease or pest "complex" because it requires both a tiny beetle as well as a fungal pathogen to invade and

kill black walnuts. The Walnut twig beetle (*Pityophthorus juglandis*) is the insect most responsible for spreading TCD to uninfected trees. The adult beetle is only about 1/8 of an inch in length. Its extremely small size makes it very difficult to spot, since the twig beetles usually attack the branches in the top of trees first.

The walnut twig beetle can carry spores of the pathogen *Geosmithia morbida*, (obtained from boring into other infected walnuts) and spreads them to healthy walnuts as it tunnels underneath the bark of twigs and small branches. The result is the formation of tiny dead (necrotic) areas or cankers around the area that was bored by the beetle. Because many beetles can attack a walnut tree at the same time, the result is a multitude of cankers being formed – hence the name thousand cankers disease. Given enough time and infestation, a black walnut will eventually die from repeated infections of TCD.

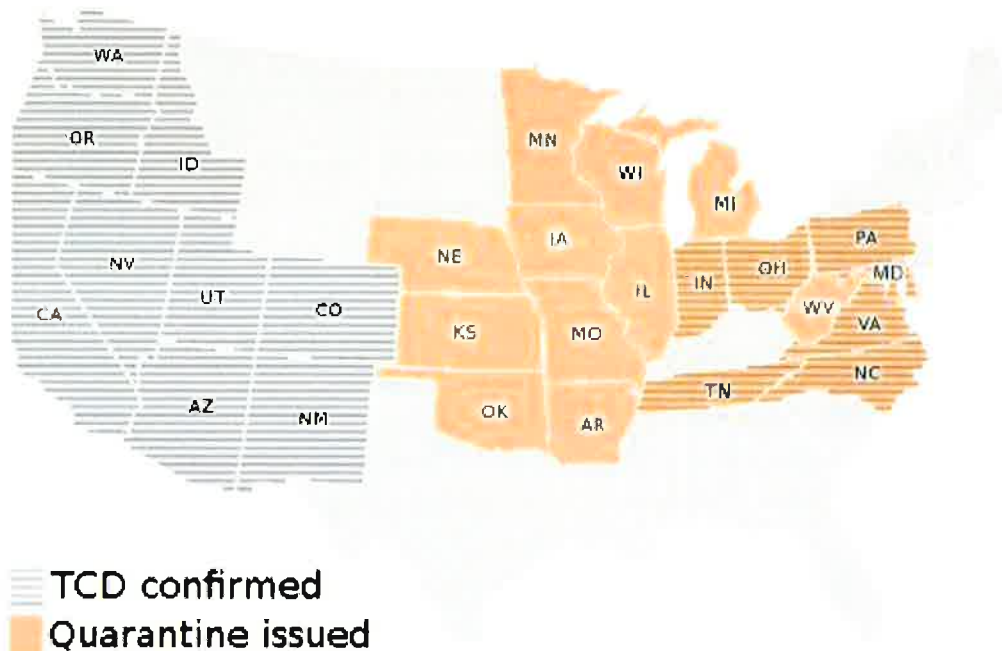


Multiple small cankers end up girdling branches, eventually killing the tree. Photo by: Whitney Cranshaw, Colorado State University

Fortunately, TCD has not yet been found in Michigan. But the fungal pathogen that causes the canker or the twig beetle that spreads it have been found in both Ohio and Indiana – just south of the Michigan state line. So, the threat posed to Michigan from TCD is indeed very real!

According to the [Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development \(pdf\)](#), Michigan's forests contain over 8.5 million black walnut trees with an economic value of more the \$86 million. Black walnuts also possess a high ecological value as a food source for birds, mammals and other wildlife. In addition, there are more than 80 walnut growers in Michigan with approximately 4,000 trees in nut production.

Distribution of Thousand Cankers Disease as of April 20, 2015



Source: www.thousandcankers.com

TCD presence in black walnut has been confirmed in both Indiana and Ohio. | Map by: <http://www.thousandcankers.com> (<http://www.thousandcankers.com>)

Michigan residents who are interested can help keep TCD out of Michigan by becoming Sentinel Tree volunteers with the [Michigan Eyes on the Forest and Sentinel Tree Network](#). ([/program/eyes on the forest/sentinel tree reporting and monitoring](#)) Funded by the Michigan Invasive Species Grant Program, the MSU “Eyes on the Forest: Invasive Forest Pest Risk Assessment, Communication and Outreach Project,” links research with outreach and communication projects through the MSU Department of Entomology and [Michigan State University Extension](#) (/).

For more information, please visit the [Michigan Eyes on the Forest webpage](#) ([/program/info/eyes on the forest](#)) or the [Midwest Invasive Species Information Network webpage](#) (<http://www.misin.msu.edu/eyes/>). Preventing the introduction of new invasive species is the goal of the Michigan Sentinel Tree Network and Eyes on the Forest Project.

This article was published by [Michigan State University Extension](#) (<http://www.msue.msu.edu>). For more information, visit <http://www.msue.msu.edu> (<http://www.msue.msu.edu>). To have a digest of information delivered straight to your email inbox, visit <http://www.msue.msu.edu/newsletters> (<http://www.msue.msu.edu/newsletters>). To contact an expert in your area, visit <http://expert.msue.msu.edu> (<http://expert.msue.msu.edu>), or call 888-MSUE4MI (888-678-3464).

Related Events

Winter Break for Knowledge

[\(http://msue.anr.msu.edu/events/winter_break_for_knowledge_2\)](http://msue.anr.msu.edu/events/winter_break_for_knowledge_2)

Mar 11, 2017 | Tahquamenon Area Schools, 700 Newberry Ave., Newberry MI 49868

Protecting Your Shoreline: A Workshop for Lakefront Property Owners

[\(http://msue.anr.msu.edu/events/protecting_your_shoreline_a_workshop_for_lakefront_property](http://msue.anr.msu.edu/events/protecting_your_shoreline_a_workshop_for_lakefront_property)

Mar 25, 2017 | Oakland County Executive Office Building (EOB), 2100 Pontiac Lake Rd., Bldg. #41W, Waterford, MI 48328



Evenings in the Garden - Winter 2017 Series

[\(http://msue.anr.msu.edu/events/evenings_in_the_garden_winter_2017_series_2\)](http://msue.anr.msu.edu/events/evenings_in_the_garden_winter_2017_series_2)

Mar 30, 2017 | 28115 Meadowbrook Rd, Novi, MI 48377

Related Articles

Wintertime identification of black walnut

[\(http://msue.anr.msu.edu/news/wintertime_identification_of_black_walnut\)](http://msue.anr.msu.edu/news/wintertime_identification_of_black_walnut)

February 28, 2017 | **Georgia Peterson** | No leaves? No problem. Other characteristics can help to identify the species.

National Invasive Species Awareness Week: Oak wilt

[\(http://msue.anr.msu.edu/news/national_invasive_species_awareness_week_oak_wilt_msg17_bo](http://msue.anr.msu.edu/news/national_invasive_species_awareness_week_oak_wilt_msg17_bo)

February 26, 2017 | **Monique L. Sakalidis** | MSU researchers recently were awarded a total of \$1 million in grant funding to prevent and control invasive species in Michigan, including oak wilt.

National Invasive Species Awareness Week: Hemlock woolly adelgid

(http://msue.anr.msu.edu/news/national_invasive_species_awareness_hemlock_woolly_adelgid)

February 26, 2017 | **Deborah G. McCullough** | MSU researchers recently were awarded a total of \$1 million in grant funding to prevent and control invasive species in Michigan, including hemlock woolly adelgid.



The Ingham Conservation District helps keep Eyes on the Forest

(http://msue.anr.msu.edu/news/the_ingham_conservation_district_helps_keep_eyes_on_the_forest)

December 30, 2016 | **Georgia Peterson** | Partnerships with MSU Extension help keep exotic invasive pests at bay.



Hauling firewood long distances can spread invasive forest pests

(http://msue.anr.msu.edu/news/hauling_firewood_long_distances_can_spread_invasive_forest_pests)

October 11, 2016 | **Russell Kidd** | Fall weather means the start of firewood burning by many Michigan residents. However, cutting and hauling firewood over long distances can contribute to the spread of invasive forest pest populations around Michigan.

