

Minutes from North Liberty Tree and Storm Water Advisory Board Meeting

November 10, 2021, 7:00 pm

Call to Order by Abdouramane Bila-Chair person. Board members present: Michael Burril, Doris Vaske, Darice Baxter, Guy Goldsmith-Parks Director, Mike Wolfe-Stormwater Coordinator

Approval of Minutes for July 14, 2021 meeting. Motion by Michael Burrill., second by Kevin McGrane. Motion carried

Abdouramane Bila opened the floor for Public Comment with no public comments to address.

Guy Goldsmith provided an update that the application for the MidAmerican *Trees Please Grant 2022* is due December 30th and the plan is to apply for the grant again. No definitive plans as to where the trees would be planted yet if the grant is received.

Guy Goldsmith provided an update on that he is also working on the application for Tree City USA designation which is due December 30th. This would be for the tree work done in 2021.

Guy Goldsmith discussed that on October 2nd the Iowa DNR held a tree planting workshop in North Liberty. It was funded through a \$5,000 match grant from the Iowa DNR with the City of North Liberty providing the \$5,000 funding to be matched. 32 trees were planted as result of this grant and the public was able to assist in planting trees at various city parks during the workshop.

Guy Goldsmith discussed that tree trimming and removal of branches and trees damaged during the derecho and identified in the tree inventory last year continued over the summer.

Guy Goldsmith provided an update that the Emerald Ash Borer is hitting North Liberty hard. There are resources available for residents on the North Liberty City website in how to deal with Emerald Ash Borer.

Kevin McGrane asks if the city is treating or cutting down Ash trees impacted by Emerald Ash Borer. Guy responds that the city has been treating approximately 150 Ash trees for the past 5 years with the focus being on younger trees in an effort to save them while the Emerald Ash Borer is still around.

Mike Wolfe provided an update. The Iowa DNR audited the stormwater permit for the city which consisted of a 1 day in-depth interview and resulted in no violations being found. The annual report was also provided to the Iowa DNR and again no issues were found.

Mike Wolfe provided a reminder for the general public that with salt used to melt ice in the winter, not much is needed. Using too much can not only damage sidewalks and driveways but excess also ends up in Muddy Creek via stormwater.

Abdouramane Bila asks if leaf litter in the streets and streams is as problematic as grass clippings. Guy and Mike offer response that there is less concern about leaves as they do not have the same abundant nitrogen as grass clippings, but they can cause blocked stormwater drains.

Abdouramane Bila opened the floor for Old Business with none to address.

Abdouramane Bila opened the floor for New Business with none to address.

Next Meeting date: January 12, 2022 at 7:00 pm

Guy states that Muddy Creek Clean-up will be on the agenda as this will be the last meeting before that event. Abdouramane Bila states that despite the cold, rainy weather there was a good turnout this year with the help of the Boy Scouts. Guy provided an update that a resident donated \$5,000 for additional trash receptacles along Muddy Creek to help keep it clean

Motion to adjourn by Doris Vaske, second by Michael Burrill. Motion carried