

Minutes of the Highland Tree Commission Meeting

Korte Recreation Center

April 3, 2011

Members Present: Kathryn Comish, Jeannie Korte, Darrel Newman, Bill Peck, Mark Rosen, Barb Stallard

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bill Peck at 4:00. The minutes of the March meeting were approved.

Guests: Sheila Gruender was present to assist in coordinating Arbor Day activities with the school.

Old Business

Sept 2012 Tree Hunt – Copies of the Jubilee Tree Hunt booklet were available for TC members to view. The booklet is being printed by the Chamber of Commerce for \$2.85 per booklet. Jeannie, Barb and Kathryn will finish printing and assembling the booklets. The ring binding was donated by Kathryn. The Tree Hunt will be kicked off at the Arbor Day celebration on April 26. Booklets will be available at six locations, the Chamber of Commerce, Korte Recreation Center, Ace Hardware, Rural King, Kalmer Landscape Supply and Widmer Floral. It was decided to limit booklets to one per family, but the entry form within can be copied. Jeannie will make a flyer describing Tree Hunt details to distribute at the Arbor Day celebration. She will also prepare a press release.

Emily Hanson Comments – Bill reported that last month's guest, Emily Hanson, Urban Forestry Coordinator from SIUC, was very impressed with our Tree Commission, the Arboretum, and our activities (i.e. the Jubilee Tree Hunt). She would like to use us as a model for other Tree Commissions she visits throughout Southern Illinois.

Arbor Day Tree Labels – Mark reported that the labels are ordered

Favorite Tree Article Update – The TC series of articles on our favorite tree is in the process of being published in the News Leader. Jeannie's article on the Prairiefire Dogwood appeared in the March 29 issue. Bill Peck's article on the Buckeye tree is due up next. His tree is currently in bloom, so Bill is contacting Curt at the Newsleader to take a photo. Barb has been writing introductory paragraphs for each article. We have been receiving favorable comments about the articles from the public.

EAB Action Plan – With the Emerald Ash Borer slowly encroaching on our area, Mark suggested that we come up with an action plan to try to prevent further spread of the insect. Some ideas include identifying ash trees in public parks, advertising/educating the public about the EAB. Mark reported that Algonquin, Illinois removed nearly ½ of their ash trees due to EAB infestation. Usable wood is being utilized for various projects. An EAB action plan will be discussed further at future meetings.

New Business

Arbor Day Agenda – The agenda for the Arbor Day celebration is as follows: Welcome/Introduce Tree Hunt Contest; Poetry Reading and Awards; Tree Planting with school Green Team; Hand out informational flyers on Tree Hunt; Refreshments.

Arbor Day Poetry Contest – Sheila Gruender coordinated the poetry contest again this year with 4th, 5th and 6th grade students from Highland schools. She selected what she considered the best dozen or so entries from each grade and brought them for TC members to judge. Two winners were chosen from each grade level. Each will receive a medal and \$25 Chamber gift certificate. Sheila will e-mail the names of the winners and their poems later. She will compile all poems submitted into a binder to be placed on display at the Korte Rec Center.

Arbor Day Plantings – The school Green Team will assist in planting trees at the celebration again this year. Barb and Mark will go out to the Arboretum and stake out locations for the trees. Barb will check with Josh Hetley about the number and type of trees he will be providing.

EHAP Free Workshop – Bill informed TC members that an Electrical Hazards Workshop would be held April 19. He has details for anyone interested.

Tree Board University – Bill recommended this on-line course to TC members. He took the course last year and has information for anyone interested.

Our Arbor Day celebration on April 26 at 3:30 will take the place of our May meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 pm.