

APPROVED  
VILLAGE OF LAKE ZURICH  
TREE COMMISSION  
Virtual  
April 6, 2021 6:30 PM

- A. CALL TO ORDER  
The meeting was called to order by Chairman Garrison at 6:30 PM
- B. ROLL CALL-Present were Scott Garrison, Tony Harper, Kurt Hansen, Kevin Scheiwiller, Mary Kozub and Village Liaison Shawn Walkington.
- C. PUBLIC COMMENT- None
- D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Commissioner Kozub motioned to approve the minutes from March 2 seconded by Commissioner Harper. All were in favor.
- E. OLD BUSINESS- Chairman Garrison asked about Budget. Liaison Walkington did not hear anything new on Forestry Budget. Chairman Garrison asked to have Drip line articles added to meeting minutes.
- F. MANAGEMENT PLAN- Commission discussed Forestry management plan. Commission reviewed management plans from Chrystal Lake and Minooka. Chairman Garrison stated that most of the things in their plans are in our Ordinance.
- G. TREE CITY GROWTH AWARD- Commission went over criteria to get growth award. Commission picked categories D6 planting trees, D8 Young tree pruning and A12 continued Education.
- H. NEW BUSINESS- Commissioner Harper suggested a living memorial to residents of the village lost to the Covid 19 pandemic. Commissioner Kozub made the motion for the Tree Commission to head the living memorial. All were in favor. Liaison Walkington will talk to staff and report at next meeting.
- I. ADJOURNMENT – Motion was made by Commissioner Harper, seconded by Commissioner Kozub to adjourn the meeting. Voice votes, AYES have it. MOTION CARRIED  
Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted: Shawn Walkington

Approved by: Scott Garrison  
Scott Garrison Chairman

Date: 5/4/21

# THE DRIP LINE: A Missive for Those Interested in the Urban Forest

2021 April. Volume 2. Issue 4.

## THE Covid-19 PANDEMIC AND THE URBAN FOREST:

As we ease into Spring and are hopeful that the end of the Covid-19 pandemic is near, it might be helpful to consider the effects of the pandemic on all of us, but more pertinently here on the urban forest and forests in general. Historically epidemic disease has had interesting and unpredictable effects on the environment in general. Both Justinian's Plague and the Black Death had far reaching ecological effects and in fact may have had a significant impact on the world's climate. Oddly, certainly during the Early Middle Ages, perceived as a Dark Age to some, ecological restoration occurred; human activity of all kinds was initially reduced giving time for a variety of ecologies to self-organize. Also, resource allocations were permanently altered, e.g. in the Middle Ages farmland was often converted to pasturage, and this change represented a historically contingent event on future land allocations. In light of the hopefully short duration of this pandemic we may not have these marked effects, however, animal movements have been altered, very possibly local biodiversity has been enhanced due to the interaction between the urban forest and local less managed forest preserves, and the stability of local forests and by default the urban forest may well have improved; air pollution has certainly been reduced as a signature of enhanced environmental quality.

In the short term, the pandemic may have given us some default benefits, longer term effects are more difficult to predict, but nothing can replace the loss of our community members to this viral plague. I would like, therefore, to suggest that some future plantings in our urban forest be officially dedicated to their memory.

## LET US SPRAY:

The following reference is to a new experimental technology that permits the insertion of genetic material directly into plants that would further allow the adaptation of those plants to varying environmental conditions or bring about new

adaptations, all without that inserted genetic information becoming part of the gametic portion of the plant genome, i.e. this intrusive genetic material would not become part of the reproductive system of the plant and therefore not be passed on from generation to generation. The delivery system of the adaptive genetic information is a spray much as biocides are spread currently, and this particular technology has been applied to crop plants with significant success. It is a short step to imagine this technology being applied to the urban forest, and perhaps forests themselves, although this latter would require a considerable knowledge of forest systems. Regarding the urban forest, it is not inconceivable that the technology could be applied to individual trees; something worth thinking about for the future.

Beans, Carolyn. 2021. Agricultural spray could quickly deliver advantageous genes to crops mid-growing season. PNAS Journal Club. As found at: <http://blog.pnas.org/2021/03/agricultural-spray-could-quickly-deliver-advantageous-genes-to-crops-mid-growing-season/>

#### DRIP LINE POLICY & PERSPECTIVE:

The intent of this embryonic publication is to inform about pertinent issues regarding the urban forest. This intent is broad-based, and specific selection of what is or is not to appear in THE DRIP LINE will remain solely in the hands of the staff....that would be me, Tony Harper. Also note that every effort will be made to keep the length of this missive to one page, back-to-back.

The ecological perspective of this missive is bio-cultural, i.e. that we are part of the environmental system, the earth-system/world-system complex. As a consequence, there can be no us-versus-them stance with respect to what is and what is not *natural*; we, among the organisms of the world, are all part of the same system. As a consequence, the topics reported on here will have the perspective of holism. Further, and this is mildly heretical, this missive takes the perspective that conservation efforts are short-term and stop-gap at best; conservation efforts, as important as they are, do NOT address the roots of our 21<sup>st</sup> Century environmental problems *per se*. These problems are *wicked* problems in the academic sense of the word, and as a result, they will require interdisciplinary efforts for their resolution, i.e. the efforts not only of ecologists and environmentalists but of economists, members of the business community, and more generally of the L.Z. populace (and beyond) at large.