

APPROVED
VILLAGE OF LAKE ZURICH
TREE COMMISSION
Virtual
July 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 June 1 seconded by Commissioner Hansen. All were in favor.
- E. OLD BUSINESS- Chairman Garrison asked about Living memorial for Covid pandemic. Commission will get prices on a plaque and Oak tree. Plaque will read “ In memory of those LZ residents who lost their lives to the pandemic of 2020-21”.
- F. MANAGEMENT PLAN- Commission tabled item until all commissioners are present.
- G. NEW BUSINESS- Commissioner Kozub said Ancient Oak will be celebrating Oaktober. They would like to sell Oak trees.
Liaison Walkington talked about a training course that the Village will host in August. The Illinois Arborist Association will have a tree trimming course at Paulus Park. They are also looking into doing one at Kuechmann in October.
- I. ADJOURNMENT – Motion was made by Chairman Garrison, seconded by Commissioner Harper 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 Chairman

Date: 8/10/21

THE DRIP LINE:

A Missive for Those Interested in the Urban Forest

2021 July. Volume 2. Issue 7.

COMMUNITY ATTITUDE: The condition of our urban forest is a reflection of community attitude and support; our urban forest is in good condition due to a very favorable community attitude and the strong community support that that attitude underpins. In a culture of more, it is difficult to advocate for sustainability, however, all things being equal, the funds that support the urban forest, a portion of your taxes, are well spent. Lake Zurich urban forest diversity is greatly improved over what it was when the Tree Commission was first formed a quarter of a century ago. Further, the community support to remediation of a forest crisis, in this case the Emerald Ash Borer infestation, has been excellent. Kudos to our urban forester, Shawn Walkington and to the village administration who have guided a very successful tree replacement program.

THE EFFECTS OF THE PREVIOUS WINTER: I'm not sure how many of you remember the winter of 1977-78; it was mild beyond belief. Everyone noted the relative warmth and quite frankly reveled in that relative warmth. The following winter produced all time record snow accumulation, but the summer in between and tree conditions during that summer should cause us to pause and think; many trees were stricken with fungal diseases that would have otherwise been muted by a normal winter. We should consider this as a harbinger of the effects of climate change induced warmth on our urban forest over the long term and be prepared.

PATTERNS OF PRECIPITATION: Just a note here. Even if precipitation is held constant per year, the pattern of rain and snow fall matters greatly. As we move toward the end of June, a very dry month generating severe drought in northern Illinois, the rain faucet has finally been turned on. However, making up for a missing ten-plus inches of rain, most probably mediated by climate change by the way, in a few days does not equal in effect the same amount of rain spread over, say, twenty or so days; runoff and erosion are two of the downsides of bust-and-binge rainfall, and everything in the environment will be affected including the urban forest.

FYI's:

The reference below is to a book that I have only read about, not read itself. However, this book is not only a personal memoir of forest research but reveals yet again how interconnected forest ecosystems are. Even managed forests like the urban forest are no different.

Simard S. 2021. Finding the Mother Tree: Discovering the Wisdom of the Forest. New York: Knopf.

Cross-generational Effects of DDT et al:

Short term benefits very often trump long term liabilities. Such is the case of pesticide use as the paper cited below explains. Not only was Rachel Carson correct about the immediate exposure of people to pesticides but there are cross-generational effects as well. When using pesticides on the urban forest, we should be mindful of their potential consequences for future generations!

Arnold C. 2021. DDT's Long Shadow: Health costs found in grandchildren of women exposed to the pesticide. Scientific American. July: 12-13.

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 further 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 21st 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.