



CITY OF LOWELL
ARBOR BOARD AGENDA

MONDAY, APRIL 11, 2022 AT 12 NOON

CITY HALL – DOWNSTAIRS FLAT RIVER CONFERENCE ROOM

1. CALL TO ORDER; ROLL CALL
2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA
3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING(S)
4. REVIEW FINANCIAL REPORTS
5. CITIZEN COMMENTS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA
6. OLD BUSINESS
7. NEW BUSINESS
 - a. Election of Chair
 - b. Approve 2022 Meeting Dates
 - c. Comprehensive Tree Plan
 - d. Consider Business Selection for Arbor Day Tree
 - e. Arbor Day April 29th Activities (Suggestions)
8. BOARDMEMBER COMMENTS
9. ADJOURNMENT

ARBOR BOARD OF LOWELL
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2021
12 P.M.

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

The Meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.m. and the roll was called.

Present: Perry Beachum, Jim Salzwedel, Leah Groves, Mathew Silverman and Chair Reagan
(arrived at 12:05 p.m.)

Absent: None

Also Present: Susan Ullery, Dan Czarnecki and Ryan Teachworth

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

IT WAS MOVED BY SALZWEDEL and seconded by GROVES to approve the agenda as written.

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

3. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

IT WAS MOVED BY SALZWEDEL and seconded by GROVES to approve the regular minutes of the May 10, 2021 meeting as written.

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

4. **REVIEW FINANCIAL REPORTS**

By general consensus, board reviewed and approved and the financial reports.

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

No comments were received.

6. **OLD BUSINESS**

- a. Arbor Day Tree Planting. Public Works Director Dan Czarnecki stated at the direction of the Arbor Board at a previous meeting, he reached out to Riverview Flats condominiums and asked if they would be interested in receiving a new tree as part of our City's Arbor Day celebration. He did not receive any response from two inquiries.

We are in need of a location to plant a tree for last Arbor Day and we should also start the process to find someplace to plant a new tree for Arbor Day 2022.

Beachum commented on the dead tree at the Alpha Women's Center. Other places such as Betten Baker, Jimmy Johns, Keisers Kitchen, Derys Therapy were also mentioned. Groves state she would contact the Alpha Women's Center and Beachum would contact Dery Therapy.

Czarnecki noted the tree planted at Meds Café was purchased for \$500 and planted for \$500.

IT WAS MOVED BY LAWARRE and seconded by SPINO to approve the Comprehensive Tree Plan as presented.

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

- b. Lowell Light and Power Tree Removal. At the May 10th meeting Ryan Teachworth brought to the Arbor Board's attention several community trees that are in conflict with power lines. LLP would like to cut down these trees as trimming will remove many branches and leave the trees looking in poor shape. LLP is looking to remove the trees and asked Arbor Board to review them in the field and to provide their input at this meeting.

By general consensus, the Board agreed that the trees should be removed. However, a replacement tree should be offered.

- c. Arbor Board Guidelines Tree Removal and Replacement. During the May 10th discussion with LLP and their proposed tree removals, Chair Reagan questioned the City requirements for tree removal of City trees. Hi indicated a need to review the guidelines for the replacement of these trees.

City Ordinances 23-66 through 23-77 addresses the creation and duties of the Arbor Board. Ordinances 23-91 through 23-102 addresses trees on public property.

Czarnecki noted recently the DPW had a dogwood tree purchased and planted. The cost of the tree was approximately \$500 and the installation cost was about \$500. A fee for tree replacement should be set high enough to cover the cost of a decent sized tree (minimum 20inch caliper) and for installation costs.

Czarnecki will provide details at the next Arbor Board meeting prior to presenting to Council.

7. **NEW BUSINESS.**

- a. Monroe St. Infrastructure Improvement Project Tree Removals. The City will look at replacing these trees at the conclusion of a construction project. At that time the planting locations will be determined. If trees are to be replaced along Monroe St. we will look to install them on the house side of the sidewalk due to the narrow area available between the curb and sidewalk, and the proximity of overhead utility cables.

8. **BOARDMEMBER COMMENTS.**

Beachum commented on the dead tree and limbs near the Shell Gas Station, McMahan Park, Creekside Park, Gee Drive (next to pump station and Alden Nash (hanging over road)).

Salzwedel questioned when tree removal would take place on Bowes Road. Teachworth responded within the next few years. Salzwedel requested this be brought back to the next meeting.

Silverman commented on the branches that hang over sidewalks. Czarnecki responded the city trims these are the police with issue a notice if it is on private property.

9. **ADJOURNMENT.**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

James E. Reagan, Chair

Susan Ullery, Recording Secretary



10-Mar-22

TREE FUND BEG. BALANCE July 2021 \$5,877.75

Total Expenditures \$0.00

Ending balance \$5,877.75



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**2022 ARBOR BOARD MEETING DATES
12:00 NOON**

March	14	April	11
May	9	September	12
October	10		

Arbor Board

Official Comprehensive Tree Plan 2022-2023

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. Replacement of Cemetery trees that have died/fallen/been removed (5).
2. Removal of selected dead/dying trees from street parkways.
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. Continued trimming of trees at Rogers Field/Moose Property.
2. Removal of selected dead/dying trees from street parkways.
3. Maintain and trim trees and remove along ROW and offer replacement trees to be planted on residential properties as budget permits.

Zone 3 – Downtown/Riverwalk

1. Review existing trees in downtown area, develop plan for replacement when needed.
2. Begin discussions/planning for landscaping/tree planting on Oklahoma Property.

Zone 4 – West Main Shopping Area

1. Begin talks with MDOT to gain permission to plant trees in ROW along Main St/M21.
2. LARA – Discuss with them tree planting to replace trees removed for trail extension.

Zone 5 – North / West Side of Lowell¹.

1. Review trees in Creekside Park, develop plan for replacement when needed.
2. Maintain and trim trees and remove along ROW and offer replacement trees to be planted on residential properties as budget permits.

Zone 6 – South / West Side of Lowell –

1. Review trees in Recreation Park, develop tree replacement that fits with Recreation Park Improvement plan.
2. Maintain and trim trees and remove along ROW and offer replacement trees to be planted on residential properties as budget permits.

Projected Budget/Implementation: It is anticipated that a budget of \$6,000.00 be committed for fiscal year 2022-2023 for removals and planting new trees with routine maintenance and trimming expenses coming from City departments.

Submitted by the Lowell Arbor Board

Jim Reagan, Chair

Perry Beachum

Leah Groves

Matthew Silverman

Jim Salzwedel (Councilmember)

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.