

**Minutes**  
**Urban Forestry & Beautification Commission**  
**February 26, 7:00 pm**

Members Present: Clayton Monahan, Sheri Callaghan, Flemming Holm, Gail Bason, Bill Felix, Jerome Guest, Thayne Bedenkop, Danielle Eller, Mike Lippert (Staff Representative).

Non-Members Present: Nathan Niklowski, Saja Payan

Minutes of January 22, 2025

Minutes were approved

Old Business:

1. Maple Syrup - Jerome updated the commission... The collection of sap will be completed shortly as taps will be pulled March 1. It is estimated there will be 140-150 gallons of sap collected when finished. Tap was collected from Stearns as well as a couple of other properties in Wyoming. The collected sap will be boiled down to make the syrup at a 60:1 ratio. UFBC has been promised control of 128 4 oz bottles of maple syrup. It was agreed to distribute the syrup as follows:
  - A. Girl Scouts 48 bottles (who helped with the program)
  - B. Fall Festival 5 bottles
  - C. Tree City USA 5 bottles
  - D. City Council 10 bottles
  - E. Tela 60 bottles (who will donate some proceeds to UFBC)

Jerome asked for assistance in labeling the bottles. The labels will say "Maples syrup, Stearns Woods Nature Preserve, Wyoming Ohio".

2. Stearns Woods Nature Preserve Updates – Eric and Clayton met with Rusty and described their plan to cut/remove honeysuckle and chip it. Rusty was pleased with the plan and recommended notifying adjacent residents. The commission met with 8-10 adjacent owners on Hickory Hill, Oliver and Liddle and dropped off flyers to those not home. They received no negative feedback. The project has been pushed back to June due to the harsh winter and the number of spring activities planned at Stearns.

Thayne noted that some non-native wildflowers are beginning to bloom at Stearns including snow drops and Winter Aconite. However, since the cold weather delayed some of the other native wildflowers, the March 2 walk was cancelled. The Commission will ask Carol Trossett for her availability March 9, 16 or 22 to complete. Thayne also commented that Carol Trossett is currently studying phenology (study of cyclic or natural phenomena; i.e. blooming schedule) at Stearns Woods.

Work events were scheduled for: April 19, April 27, May 10, May 25, and June 7. Tentatively, the time was set for 9-noon for these dates.

3. Public Green Area Management Plan Update – No progress. Nothing to present.
4. Pesticide Application Training – Interested members set a pesticide training session for March 5, 7 pm. Location to be announced. It is anticipated the training will be 90 minutes or so and cover applicable sections of the "Safety Training Guide for Non-Certified Pesticide Handlers" booklets.
5. Arbor Day – This year, the event is planned to take place at Hilltop School. Flemming and Clayton will make the arrangements with Todd as the tree identifier for the scavenger hunt. Nationally, arbor day is officially April 25.
6. Annual Report to City Council – Clayton agreed to give the presentation to city council. We are shooting for the May 19 agenda. Sheri is collecting photos to be included in the powerpoint.

New Business:

1. Recreation Center planting – Gail noted that several plants in the Recreation Center circle need to be replaced. In addition, she is suggesting planting some new plants to further enhance the area. She will email the group for assistance when the time comes.

Miscellaneous:

1. Nathan is still interested in labeling more park trees in Wyoming. He had questions on the type of labels and locations. Mike will get with Rusty.
2. Thayne acquired native seed and wants to grow some plant seedlings in trays to ultimately plant at Stearns Woods. These include black-eyed Susans (Rudbeckia hirta). Volunteer assistance is desired for the trays.
3. Bill mentioned he has prepared a draft to apply for a Taking Root mini grant. This needs to be approved by Rusty before submitting. It was suggested to ask for the maximum amount (\$1,500) when applying.
4. Thayne has working signs and a first aid kit available for work sessions at Stearns. He is looking for a sign stand.
5. Next meeting will be March 26, 2025

Meeting Adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted: Mike Lippert