

URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION
Monday, 5/11/2026 3:30 p.m.
Executive Sessions Room

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bob Brantsch, Chairperson John Berg
 Stephen Bagstad Tom Klingler
 Joe Kollar Jeff Saltzman

ALSO PRESENT: Jeff Napieralski, Urban Forestry Kari Erdman, Secretary
 Harrison Melvin

MEMBERS ABSENT: Laura Root

CALL TO ORDER – The meeting was called to order at 3:31 PM by Bob.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Approval of Minutes: Motion by Joe Kollar to approve the minutes from the 4/13/26 meeting; All in favor. Motion passed.

- 1. E- Newsletters;** Bob shared with the commission the outline from last year. Commission decided on articles and writers for the remainder of the year. The schedule is as follows:

Month	Topic
May	Mulching, Joe
June	Beech Leaf Disease, Jeff S
July	Watering, Joe
August.....	Big Tree Contest, Jeff N/ Kari and Marketing Team
September	Cost Share Program, Jeff N
October	Holiday Trees, Bob
November	Tree Benefits, Tom
December	Christmas Tree Recycling, previously Laura will confirm with her at a future meeting

- 2. Big Tree Contest-** Commission decided this year to select Maple trees for the contest. Measurement will be done as DBH. Jeff will have something similar on entry form allowing for the Commission to be on their property for measurements. They would like to have only entries from private property, nothing that is on public property. Would like to promote at the pop-ups.
- 3. EarthFest recap-** Approximately 100 attendees. They gave away 60 trees at the event. Jeff S. stated he didn't like the way that the trees were packaged. He felt that they were handing out dried out trees. He recommended doing a different type of packaging for next year. Joe stated he felt like there were less participants than in years past. Joe suggested not doing the walk at the event again due to lack of interest. Jeff N. reminded the commission that they can always host a separate event and just have a table with giveaways for this event. Bob would like to see the commission do a separate educational event. Jeff N. recommended that they do registration for a future event. The commission feels like they are struggling to find the audience to relay their information to. Bob would like to focus on kid interaction through the school tree planting and the tree cookie project versus at the events.

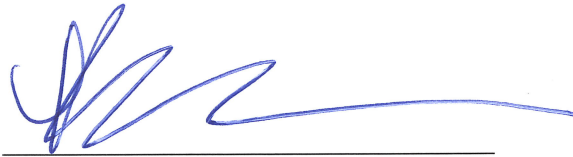
4. **Pop-up series-** May 20th Pop-up is canceled due to the Citywide pep rally. Commission has decided to do the pop-ups scheduled on June 30th, August 19th and October 7th. Bob, Joe, Tom and Laura have already said they are available for the Pop up in June. They will finalize who will run the table at the next meeting.
5. **Marketing-** Bob suggested doing something like neighboring communities such as mass information door hangers. He suggested topics like no volcano mulching. The commission would be the ones to distribute the hangers. Kari will put together a sample for next meeting.
6. **Student input-** Harrison is a junior in the Kent HS CTE program. He attended the meeting for the 1st time. He was invited to be one of the student ambassadors. He thinks people can benefit from information on knowing the benefits of native plants.

NEXT MEETING: Monday, 4/13/2026, 3:30 pm, Stow City Hall Boards & Commissions Room.

MEETING ADJOURNED - 4:38 PM



Bob Brantsch, Chairperson



Kari Erdman, Secretary