

Mayville Tree Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

October 15, 2024

Carlson Community Center, Lakeside Park

6:00 p.m.

Attendance: Pat Appelbe, Laura Marsala, Priscilla McKean, Elizabeth Lasser, Sharon Smead, Mark Smith

1. It was noted during the meeting that the committee did not meet in July or September. There was a brief, information meeting in August.
2. In July, three members of the committee walked along the Rails to Trails to assess tree damage and loss, and map where new trees could be planted.
3. On September 5 Sharon did a ride-around with Dan Engdahl to review and discuss where new trees could be planted. Gravit Field, the new playgrounds, and along the Rails to Trails path were discussed.
4. Laura reported that a business owner had contacted her to consult about the best trees to place on her property and desirable sites. She met with the owner and anticipates multiple groupings of trees will go on this property in the spring.
5. Laura reported appearing on "Fresh Perspectives" (show #218) to talk about the tree advisory committee.
6. It was reported that the Village has received \$520 in donations for the matching funds program. The committee requested the procedure to move ahead on getting the new trees purchased and planted.
7. It was reported that the mayor was not satisfied with the report from arborist Joe McMaster. Laura and Sharon met with another ISA certified arborist, Vince Liuzzo, for a second opinion. He advised that disturbing the existing root system would not be a good approach. His full report is attached to these minutes.
8. The committee planned another vine removal work session on Oct. 28 for along the Rails to Trails from the depot to the end of the public dock area.

The next meeting: Tuesday, Nov. 19, 6:00 p.m. at the Lakeside Park Pavilion.

Vince Liuzzo
DBA Vince Liuzzo Arborist Services
ISA Certified Arborist
ID: NY-6300-A

Recommendations for Distressed Bank Trees
Lakeside Park, Mayville NY

Overview: On 10/8/2024 Vince Liuzzo, ISA Certified Arborist, along with representatives from the Village of Mayville NY Tree Committee observed and assessed the long term viability and acute environmental benefits of a number of *Salix babylonica* trees on the edge of Chautauqua Lake in Lakeside Park, Mayville NY. These trees are in close proximity to well established riparian buffers which provide necessary absorption of soluble nutrients- mitigating infiltration into the lake- and create sustainable natural armoring of the bank, reducing effects of erosion. Due to their proximity to the lake edge and buffer zones, the willow trees and root systems are providing considerable support to the positive impact of the buffer zones on localized lake health and bank stability.

Two of the trees in question were observed to have large hollow sections in the main stems, from ground level up to approximately 4 feet or higher. Due to the apparent condition of these trees, they have been identified as potential candidates for removal as a public health and safety risk management measure.

Findings: All trees in question were vigorous and showed limited signs of canopy dieback or systemic disease beyond heartwood decay. Two large willow trees have compartmentalized spread of decay likely caused by poor pruning practice and/or significant limb failure. Initial wounds are likely decades old. While the heartwood of these trees is largely decayed, there is significant structural support from remaining sapwood ring, where present. Root flares show no signs of heaving or other indicators of likely failure from uprooting. While the trees in question display considerable decay in the heartwood of the trunk, they currently provide significant environmental benefit as it relates to proximity to buffers and lakeshore. The root systems of the trees in question are vast and absorb water and soluble nutrients efficiently. Additionally, roots extend to, and beyond the riparian buffer zones, creating effective bank stabilization and armoring.

Recommendations: While the extent of heartwood decay increases failure potential, considerations should be made to the benefit of the active and healthy root systems and nutrient absorption capacity of the trees in question. Due to the significant acute environmental benefits of the healthy and expanding root systems- in regards to bank stabilization, resource sharing with buffer plants, and excess nutrient absorption from stormwater runoff- a risk management approach that includes pruning of large lateral limbs and relocation of potential targets is recommended in the short term. Additionally, immediate planting and/or live staking of additional water tolerant trees in proximity to trees in question is recommended to compensate for the eventual recession and decay of root systems following the removal or failure of trees in question.

Conclusion: While it is impossible to determine the viable lifespan or timeline for failure of any tree: healthy or otherwise, the acute environmental benefits of these trees are significant and should be taken into serious consideration. Preserving the root network and nutrient absorption capacity of these trees prolongs the benefits they provide to lake health and bank stabilization. The extent of these benefits, as provided by mature and well established trees will take significant time to replicate via replanting and cultivation of replacement specimens. Where resources permit, replacement trees should be installed by means of live staking or planting of larger trees as soon as possible, depending on weather conditions. As these newly installed trees mature, their root systems will integrate with the already established root network of buffer plants and mature willows. With this in mind, removal of trees in question should be delayed as long as possible, while mitigating risk to any potential targets. Pruning of large lateral limbs on remaining mature willows will decrease imminent failure risk and allow for new installations to establish. Relocation of picnic tables from under trees in question limits potential targets, providing peace of mind while mitigating risk. If it is determined that trees in question must be removed, it is worth considering allowing new installations to establish over the next few years while taking measures to limit risk by reducing/discouraging regular public access to the areas directly around the trees in question-particularly during or directly after severe weather events. If it is determined that trees in question should be removed in the short term, leaving the stumps in place and allowing new shoots to grow is recommended above grinding stumps.

Disclosure: Preceding statements represent the opinions of Vince Liuzzo ISA Certified Arborist, and should not be considered legal, required or binding. Statements are not to be considered a guarantee of viability of tree(s) in question. Liability is hereby deferred for any impacts of tree failure and related damages caused by trees in question.