

1. Arbor Day 2024
 - a. Collaborate with MVS: Tuesday 12 Mar , 1:30 – Peter, Greg Seitz and Kitsi will meet with Kim Cox
 - i. Kids can help plant a gravel bed and eliminate some buckthorn from the school forest
 - ii. Give each school family a tamarack to plant at home and care for
 - b. Mayor’s proclamation – Plana for the May CC meeting along with 6-year sticker and pictures of MVS kids doing celebration.
 - c. PR – Messenger article
 - i. Celebration of 6-year award
 - ii. MVS participation, picture of kids planting trees
 - iii. Tree cookies from the Gen
 - iv. Flyer for usual spots around town and the school
2. Gravel beds
 - a. 250 tamaracks have been ordered, 12-16” tall, arrive mid-April and can be planted immediately
 - b. Unplanted gravel bed can hold at least 64 tamaracks
 - c. Plan for irrigation in both beds – Sounds like no new equipment needed. Steve has timer, Peter has hoses. We have a budget in case we need anything new.
 - d. Other gravel bed with existing tams can take another 30-40
 - e. Put up one or two interpretive signs – Steve and Peter
 - f. Remaining trees (~140) can be used for distribution – school, community, city council
3. Buckthorn
 - a. Plan for stone house site
 - i. Slash disposal – Joe shrunk down biggest slash pile with chainsaw. Plan A would be to let the piles be, as there have been no complaints on them. Next winter we could burn if we get snow. Maybe use buckthorn to evaporate maple sap. Wendy uses ~50% buckthorn for her sap boil.
 - ii. Follow up treatment –Joe will organize FAC site tour next weekend to discuss options.
 - iii. Additional buckthorn treatment – maybe try planting seeds right after buckthorn removal. Maybe seed one side of the Stone House trail, not seed the other side, put up some interpretive signs. Joe will find out how much the seed costs. Joe and others will stake out plot, decide how/where to plant.
 - b. Other sites – Burris Park, school forest, Cedar St., etc. Discuss this weekend, develop a priority list.
 - c. Buckthorn buster award – Will wait another year on this.
 - d. Inviting UofM experts for Buckthorn 101 lecture. Would Science Museum host this? Steve mentioned this to the UofM guy, he was enthusiastic. Jim Maher (library) also very interested, they have a potential date in early May. Steve will check on this. Kitsi – check if Peter Reich would be available/interested in doing this in May (2nd or 16th check with Jim). Steve will ask for the powerpoint.
4. Care and maintenance of newly planted trees
 - a. Watering plan for 2023 planted trees – who, where, what, when, how
 - i. Resource inventory

1. Gator bags
2. Learn from previous experience (Peter)
3. Public Works filled the gator bags on the memorial tree. We have 3 bags here, Peter has 11 = 14. We need 20 more. Wendy will ask Tommy if he has any more gator bags and what his capacity is for watering 21 trees. Need will depend on soils and conditions (how much rain we get).
4. Tree guards (white) are ugly. Dennis has some much nicer ones made of heavy black mesh, JG will find out cost differential.
- b. Maintenance/inspection of 2021-2022 trees – John, Kitsi and whoever. Kitsi will organize. Wendy will document.
 - i. Pruning
 - ii. Renew mulch
 - iii. General condition assessment
5. Urban forest inventory
 - a. Cemetery
 - b. City-wide
 - c. JG – we might have a solution but it will take a while. iTree has evolved to be useful but not for acquiring data. He has been invited to attend a WaCo meeting next week, March 20 in which he may learn of a tool.
 - d. Funds for Marine or WaCo
6. Guidance for planting in public spaces
 - a. List of preferred and to-be-avoided species for inclusion in Ch. 16 of city code. John has list of avoidable trees: Norway maple, Amur maple, Alanthis, buckthorn, Calori Pear. Get this in the newsletter (next one is in July). Present this to CC in May or June
7. Memorial tree proposal – Jane Kennedy has volunteered to do this, will present at next month's meeting.
8. EAB loss mitigation
 - a. Continue public education efforts
 - b. Inoculation is a two-year program. Wendy will be advocating for a 10-year program. Send a communication, maybe include picture of blanding ash trees - Wendy. Include importance of watering.
 - c. Ash mortality will be much more obvious in 2024 in Marine
9. Woodcarving at Folkschool – get carvers to work on buckthorn? Carving contest? Decorative wood
10. Other business – add Jane Kennedy and Charlie Borden to FAC meeting list (Kitsi)