

Mayville Tree Advisory Committee Meeting Notes
Feb. 17, 2026, Carlson Community Center, Lakeside Park, 6:00 p.m.

Attendance: Pat Appelbe, Sharon Smead, Mark Smith, Laura Marsala, Priscilla McKean, Shannon Bieckark, Tom Slabe, Domenic Liberatore

OLD BUSINESS

1. Arbor Day was discussed. The committee will hold two Arbor Day celebrations this year: one at the old school in the Town of Chautauqua we will plant a maple to replace one that was removed; one on the Village green. Councilmen, trustees, the Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy, et al. have been invited to attend.
2. Laura reported the Town lawyer has written a first draft proposing a formal tree board. She has recommended changing the 12 seats to seven. There will be a public hearing on April 15, and then the resolution will be voted into law.
3. Pat reported on her meeting with Principal Rachel Curtain was deferred regarding a junior tree board member.
4. Laura reported that all four April Library Tree clinics are set as follows: April 4 – Common Tree Pests (Laura); April 11 – What are Natives and Why are They Important? (Jonathan Townsend, Royal Fern Nursery); April 18 – Dormant Pruning (Domenic); April 25 – An Ecosystem Rehabilitation (Tom). Laura has ordered 40 native tree saplings from the Soil & Water Conservancy (10 ninebarks, 10 lilacs, 10 serviceberries, 10 red buds) for clinic drawings and giveaways at the Arbor Day ceremonies.
5. Pat reported that the third-graders' "Tree Day" will be held at the school sometime during the week of May 11-15 and include three learning stations, a woods walk/scavenger hunt, and the planting of a tree. Laura, Pat, and Dom will scout an appropriate location near the playground for the planting. Laura will reach out to the DEC and Jon Ortendahl to ask if they'd like to participate. Also, inviting the older science classes to participate was discussed. Pat will continue to work out the details with Sarah Morrison.
6. Best practices and the recording of bad practices (ice dumped into the grove, planting without removing the wire basket and burlap, weed whipping, snowmobiles allowed in the grove (compaction of soil) were discussed. Members were asked to record/photograph any malpractices to help create a best practices guide.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Incentives for encouraging residents to plant trees on their properties were discussed. Sharon suggested a "scholarship" program of sorts, using fundraising money to create a "pot" to pay for the trees.
2. Domenic proposed a "Save the Maples" fundraising program.
3. Deer guards were suggested for the new trees.

Adjournment at 7:05 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 17, 6:00 p.m. at the Carlson Center.