



## Forestry Advisory Committee Meeting

January 7, 2016

Sturgis Community Center- 7:00 PM

**Members Present:** Bill McKee, Aaron Jordan, Tony Dargatz and Gene Stock.

**Members Absent:** Ken Meirose

**Others Present:** Josh Larson (Urban Forester)

### Agenda Items:

1. Reviewed Minutes:

Aaron motioned to approved November meeting minutes, Tony and Bill seconded.

### Other Matters:

- **Status of Dept of Agriculture Challenge Grant**
- Josh Larson informed the Forestry Committee that the State had a little confusion regarding the amount we requested on the Challenge Grant application for the purchase of TreeWorks software. Josh said he would check with Dr. John Ball on prices and get back with us. The Committee would like us to go ahead and purchase the software whether we are awarded the grant or not.
- Josh mentioned the state has a Community Forest Initiative. Its basically a program where the Urban Forester would come to our community and assist with tree inventory, help create a long term forestry management plan, support and train the advisory board on maintenance of city trees etc.
- **Mountain Pine Beetle Update**
  - Gene informed the Committee that he has found very few MPB trees on the Watershed. They have found some out at Ft Meade and Cemetery. The bid specs have been sent out and we are just waiting on the bids to come back in.
- **Discussion was held about the resources of the Watershed.**
  - It was suggested to visit with Josh to see what his ideas are. Can we thin the trees and use the money from the thinning to help develop and maintain the trails? Josh agreed to take a look at the watershed and give us some ideas. We will contact him in the Spring to set up a time for him to come up and tour the area

### Tree Care

Gene informed the committee that the Parks Dept have been doing tree maintenance in different areas throughout the city. They have removed trees at Francis Case area, 6<sup>th</sup> St area, Girls Softball area and at City Park

**Other Matters**

Gene asked Josh about a grove of dead pine trees out at Ft. Meade. Josh suggested a few reasons why they may have died, including weather or maybe too much moisture. He said he would come look at them sometime in the future.

The next Forestry Meeting is scheduled for March 3, 2016 at the Meade County Extension Office

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Submitted by Angie Shideler