



Clermont Tree Allies Meeting
Clermont Town Hall—9049 Crawfordsville Road
March 4, 2026

MINUTES

Attendance: Chris Boyle, Heidi Boyle, Mike Beam, Bernie Denning, Amber Lane, Tim Lambard, Grace Brenzek, Linda Straub

Tree Allies Vice President Bernie Denning presided over the meeting in the absence of Tree Allies president Mallory Abel.

1. February Meeting Minutes:

- a. **Motion:** Grace Brenzek moved to approve the February minutes. Chris Boyle seconded the motion. The motion was approved 5-0, with one abstention (Amber Lane).

2. Arbor Day 2026 Planting:

The board discussed planting plans for the Arbor Day observance in April at the Clermont Cemetery on Tansel Road. Of note:

- a. General consensus was reached that four trees should be purchased and planted at the cemetery. One was to be a white oak or bur oak to replace the damaged white oak sapling in the center of the cemetery. Three were to be prairiefire crabapple trees, which were one of the species suggested by board member Sarah Gray, who emailed the board before the meeting. The crabapples were decided to be planted along the south cemetery entrance wall in the same fashion as three current ornamental trees that are along the north cemetery entrance wall.
- b. Tim Lambard said he would check with town's landscaper to see about possible credit for the damaged tree in the cemetery.
- c. **Motion:** Bernie Denning moved that three prairiefire crabapple trees be bought for framing the cemetery entrance. Heidi Boyle seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0, with one abstention (Linda Straub).
- d. Mike Beam and Larry Beiter to work on purchasing the trees, subject to council approval. Heidi and Chris Boyle to pick up trees when ready from the nursery, as well as trunk guards and mulch needed for the event.
- e. Tim Lambard suggested running a water line from the cemetery hose location to the new trees along the road to irrigate them more efficiently. There was no objection from the board members.
- f. Tim Lambard suggested the possibility of the proceeds from potential auction sales of old town street name signs could help fund the activities of the Tree Allies. The board members were receptive, and Lambard planned to bring to the town council for approval.



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- g. For the event, Bernie Denning said he would bring his table and Linda Straub agreed to prepare a few remarks to note the occasion of the Arbor Day observance.
- h. Out of the discussion of planting the trees for Arbor Day came an idea to have residents in town participate in naming trees, most specifically the new crabapple trees to be planted. The board settled on a “tree dedication program” concept where residents could nominate a tree to be named after an individual (living or deceased) that has special significance to the town. The overarching purpose would be to garner community participation, interest, and connection to trees in town. It was suggested that a poster in town hall could identify trees in town and whom they are named after. Bernie Denning was to write up a description to be used in the town’s March monthly e-newsletter to start promoting the idea. Mike Beam was to put info about the Arbor Day event on the town’s portable signage.

3. Clermont Newsletter Tree Allies Insert

- a. The board discussed Tree Allies content for the summer town newsletter. Topics to include: new tree dedication program, native plants information (Sarah Gray designated to write it), tree topping information (Mike Beam to write it).

4. In addition to the topics on the agenda:

- a. Bernie Denning mentioned he would be attending the Indiana Tree City USA conference in Terre Haute on March 11. All spots to attend were full already. He knew of several knowledgeable people he wanted to speak with and planned to report back afterward with what he learns.
- b. Bernie Denning said that the Tree Watering Team (consisting of himself, Heidi Boyle, and Larry Beiter, among others) had talked about strategies for improving the watering of trees and plants in town that are under the town’s care and that volunteers have been handling for years. Denning found a possible pump and battery that could be purchased to make watering with the town’s large water containers more efficient, and he said that Beiter had discussed possible use of the Lions Club’s trailer and water tanks. An alternative idea was to use larger hoses on the town’s water containers, which would negate the need for a pump. No decisions were made, and the Watering Team planned to meet again to discuss it.
- c. Amber Lane will reach out to members of the Comprehensive Tree Plan committee to meet to begin work on the plan. She emphasized the group would build on the existing good work of other municipalities’ tree plans to expedite the project.
- d. Tim Lambard mentioned he will be out of town during the parade in September but that his trailer would still be available for use in the parade.



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5. Adjournment:

- a. **Motion:** Heidi Boyle moved to adjourn the meeting. Amber Lane seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m.