

Tree Allies Minutes

Wed., Nov. 12

Members present: Mallory Abel, Larry Beiter, Chris Boyle, Heidi Boyle, Mike Beam, Linda Straub, Sarah Gray, Grace Brenzek

The group reviewed previous month's minutes. Mallory moved to approve minutes. Grace seconded motion. All agreed to minutes from October

Mallory suggested a review and discussion of previous year's efforts.

Linda asked if the tree was planted in front of the beauty shop and Heidi said that it was.

Tim is going to man a booth at the Fall Festival at Impact church. Brochures in Grace's office. It was suggested that all the supplies for booths be kept in a tub in a location accessible to all. Contents be posted on the tub and refreshed as needed. The wooden signs are in the town barn.

Linda asked if the group could use Chris Flannigan and if he could get another quote to see if we can use him. Linda liked his thoroughness.

Mike said Kim and Tim were going to talk to an arborist about the Miller Park trees. He may be able do things for free for Miller Park. Larry said he is concerned about using a tree company because trees may be removed that may not need to be removed. Larry said Larry, Bernie, Heidi will make up the tree assessment subcommittee that views and makes suggestions about trees in Clermont. That had been decided at a previous meeting. Linda suggested that the group should be involved whenever there was a question about trees. Chris suggested that our group becomes more available to be onsite to give guidance on tree trimming. Larry suggested that Chris Flannigan may be a good resource who aligns with our Tree Allies goals.

Larry, Bernie and Heidi to create subgroup to evaluate trees. **Sarah** as well. Group to set up group text to make recommendations.

Mike will ask Kim to have the park trees evaluated within a month.

Linda asked if they were going to label trees. Kim is concerned about some specific trees and their health.

Mike said in the future, when we plant the trees, the Tree Allies should not provide trees to specific business owners. The town should not do that because tax dollars are being used. Public good is gained by the trees but we should have discussion about the trees being used on private land. We should have a form, going forward, that business owners sign. In return, our investment in cost and time will be protected by the explanation in the form. Example form:

Tree Setback Planting Program. Agreement and Release. Larry asked if a form should be used and if he needed to create the form using this template. Larry and Grace volunteered to create a Clermont form titled Adopt a Tree program. Draft copy to be reviewed at next meeting.

Trees at Clermont sign look good. **3 trees planted.**

June Car show fish fry: Linda said people were introduced to having the group, Tree Allies.

Parade: Great response from community. **4 trees planted.** We need more hats.

Fall festival: Community excited about plants and many were donated by the people who run the blessings box. Kids coloring contest was popular. Prizes were given. Mallory to spearhead final prize from email drawing.

Arbor Day photo contest: prize to person. It was suggested that we offer that later in season when trees were leafing.

Tree Sales: **28 trees trees sold.**

Robey Festival: Good response from community.

35 TREES PLANTED IN CLERMONT in 2025

2026 Additional Tasks:

Grace suggested asking people who bought trees how their trees are doing.

Larry discussed a Watering crew. We need more people. Goal to grow number of people who can assist with watering or develop better way to water. There is already a subgroup of people in town and on this committee. Need to do active recruitment.

Master plan subcommittee: Develop zones to plant trees. **Larry** said KIB isn't financially feasible to use. They did offer to help. Develop plans about where to plant. Larry asked if we wanted to ask for grants. **Mike, Chris, Sarah and Grace** to develop master plan and offer sketch to larger group. For 2026 Comprehensive Tree Plan was discussed by Mike. Chris will begin to coordinate the subcommittee. Mike reminded the group that a written 3 year plan for town trees was needed that addresses how to plant, how to groom them, tree species and categories about trees (size, natives). Sarah said she could definitely address the tree species. Linda suggested that the completion of that should be a 2026 goal.

Mallory asked about the newsletter. She is overwhelmed by newsletter. If group could commit to newsletter and provide article in more timely fashion. Quarterly was agreed to be best.

Set up calendar of events in December meeting. Wed., December 10 . January newsletter. December 6th due. Year of pics and Year in review. **Heidi and Mallory** will make calendar of events.

Treesgiving:?? May choose to do that in November 2026

Chris asked about budget. Larry stated that \$1000 for tree allies. Mike said we earned \$10 per tree. Approx. \$1200 for 2026 with \$1241 as our total.

Renewing Tree City USA: **Chris** Boyle will make application.

All purchases should go through Mallory. Larry will then reimburse. Funnel all purchases through Mallory.

Next meeting: Wed., January 7, 6pm

Monday, Nov. 17 at 6pm. At 3Agaves as a celebration of our work.

Meeting adjourned by Mallory. Linda seconded motion.