# Berkley Tree Board Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, September 22, 2025

Time: 7:08 PM – 7:55 PM

## Attendance

Present: T. Losey (Chair), L. Fritsch (Vice Chair), G. Elrod (Secretary), B. Lathrop, A. Wozniak, E. Fogle, S. Bard, D. Hennen

Absent: F. Foen

Additional Visitors: None

## Agenda Items

**Approval of Meeting Minutes**

The minutes from the June 23, 2025 meeting were reviewed and approved.

**Public Comments**No public comments were received.

**Approval of Agenda**The agenda was reviewed and approved as presented.

**Old Business**

* **Library Bradford Pear Removals**: JH Hart removed invasive/declining Bradford pears at the library; DPW will re-plant on the green belt with appropriate species.
* **Street Art Fest Participation**: Strong engagement until weather/tornado concerns cut it short. Still worth repeating next year as a family-friendly, walkable outreach touchpoint.
* **Touch a Truck**: Excellent turnout and conversations; effective venue for sign-ups and education. Common resident questions centered on sewer laterals and tree roots. Board discussed creating standard talking points to address these concerns
* **Fall Tree Program – Status**: ~160 resident sign-ups to date; target ~175 public-easement trees this round, with ~25 trees reserved for parks and the library. System will remain open year-round for requests. Planting expected late November–early December, weather-dependent. Public program does not plant on private property; the Board will explore an Arbor Day seedling giveaway as a private-yard option.

**DPW Update**

* **DTE Grant**: Application submitted for $4,000 (parks-focused planting). Prior history suggests awards often alternate years.
* **GIS / Inventory**: Continuing work with SavATree on GIS; county platform access limits external contractor logins. City is developing an in-house GIS that can be shared with vendors in the future.
* **Tree Removal FAQ**: A. Wozniak to draft a public FAQ (per D. Hennen’s suggestion) explaining removal criteria and typical conditions (decline, conflicts with road work, proximity/roots, structure). Coordination with a DNR contact anticipated.

**New Business**

* **2026 Meeting Schedule**: Keep current cadence with breaks in July, August, and December. Motion to adopt same schedule for 2026 approved.
* **Advocacy – MI Urban & Community Forestry**: Interest in supporting program; item tabled to next meeting pending materials/guest availability.
* **Library Outreach Program**: Deferred this year due to bandwidth. Revisit next month to decide whether to scope a 2026 program.
* **“Bookley/Monster Mash” Participation – Sat Oct 25, 2–5 PM**: Board will participate. Location: Coolidge corridor closed (Catalpa to 12 Mile). Plan simple, high-throughput kid craft (e.g., handprint “leaf tree”), coloring pages, and QR sign-ups**.**
* **Holiday Lights Parade – Fri Dec 6**: Board will participate; keep execution simple (walkers with battery lights, banner, and volunteers).

**City Council Update – D. Hennen**

No update.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM.

**Next Meeting**: Monday, October 27, 2025, at 7:00 PM.