

DRAFT Minutes
Ridgefield Tree Committee
January 13, 2026
6:35 p.m.

**This is a Summary of the Activities of the Committee
and not a verbatim transcript**

In attendance: Members: Tom McManus (Chair), Paul Shotton, Ian Dow, Ryan Bossis, Kitsey Snow, Bob Roth, Don Hulnick (excused). Tree Warden: Steve Lavatori (excused).

Approval of Minutes of Past Meetings

Mr. McManus referred to the minutes of the meeting of the Committee on November 10 that had been provided to the members in advance of the meeting.

UPON motion duly made (Shotton), seconded (Dow), and carried, it was RESOLVED that these minutes were APPROVED. Motion passed: 3-0-3 (Bossis, Roth and Snow abstaining).

Meeting Schedule for 2026

Mr. McManus referred to a proposed Meeting Calendar for 2026: 10 regular Committee meetings at 6:30pm on the second Tuesday of each month (except July and December); September and October meetings on the third Tuesday instead of the second. Another meeting is scheduled for Saturday May 16 at 10am in Ballard Park (to celebrate Arbor Day).

UPON motion duly made (Bossis), and seconded (Shotton), and carried, it was RESOLVED that this schedule was APPROVED. Motion passed: 6-0.

Election of Officers

UPON a nomination duly made (Shotton), and seconded (Dow), Mr. McManus was elected Chair of the Committee: 6-0.

UPON a nomination duly made (McManus), and seconded (Dow), Mr. Shotton was elected Vice Chair of the Committee: 6-0.

There were no nominations for Secretary of the Committee.

Forestry Management Plan

The Committee discussed some proposed edits and additions to the Forestry Management Plan shared by Mr. Bossis. Members agreed more discussion needed as to the scope of document.

More Trees to Plant

Mr. McManus spoke about planting goals for 2026. More locations on Main Street; expand project to other state highways; Ridgefield High School; another near Library; Richardson Park.

Mulching Recently Planted Trees

The Committee discussed the need for post-planting care (e.g. mulching, shaping) for the 40 trees planted on Main Street in 2024-5.

Establishing a Ridgefield Arboretum

The Committee discussed various locations that might qualify for Level I arboretum status: Parks, Cemeteries, Town golf course.

Adjournment

UPON motion duly made (Roth), seconded (McManus), and carried, it was RESOLVED that the meeting be adjourned at 8:15 p.m. Motion passed: 6-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Tom McManus, Chair