

## Chronology: How Dike Road Cut Happened (7.15.15)

**TerryG:**

Pounder, Your comments today smack of nothing more than damage control possibly sanctioned by the City Engineer. I sat on the committee organized by Council to give citizen input on an effort to save as many trees on the Dike as possible. We had to call our own meetings because it was readily apparent from the get-go that our City Engineer wanted no input from our committee. Over time, committee members were able to ascertain that the Corps was becoming more acceptable of having trees on a dike, especially evergreen trees whose roots tend to last a long time after a tree dies. Once it became apparent that we would be able to keep "most" of the trees on the Dike, the City hired Tim Kasting, an Arborist with Grace Tree Service to inventory and assess all 1100 mature trees on the Dike. Mr. Kasting found that about 330 trees should be removed to promote a healthy forest on the Dike. In March of 2014, a person in the office of the City Engineer called John Bruning who chaired our committee and talked him into dissolving our committee as "our work was done." In December of 2014, the City Engineer was quoted in a news article on the City's website as saying that work on tree removal on the Dike would commence shortly and that the City would be able to save "most of the trees." Ruen-Yeager listed Tim Kasting as an Arborist on their Team to advise on tree removal. As we all know, the City Engineer's crews cut well over 700 trees. According to Mr. Kasting, he was never once consulted by anyone from the City or Ruen-Yeager during the process. The Corps wanted the City to carefully remove the stumps left behind and to chase the roots down to a 2" diameter. In fact, the City crews simply used a piece of heavy equipment to rip the remaining stumps out of the ground. And then some genius from the City decided to limb up every remaining tree on the Dike 22' from the ground? All of this is why those of us "in the know," refer to the entire exercise as the Dike Tree Massacre.