

Village of Fox Point Tree Commission

Minutes of October 23, 2014

(As amended on February 12, 2015. Corrections in italics)*

A meeting of the Village of Fox Point Tree Commission was held in the Village Hall Conference Room on Thursday, October 23, 2014 at 4:00 p.m.

Present: Trustee F. R. Dengel III, Chair; Louise Petering, Judy Shirley, Nancy Warner

Excused: Karen Grube

Ex Officio: John Gall, Village Forester

The meeting notice was mailed to the *North Shore Now* and to all others as required by the State open meeting laws, and posted on the village website and bulletin boards.

Trustee Dengel called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

Approval of Minutes. The minutes of the June 12, 2014 meeting were approved as amended to indicate that Commissioners Louise Petering and Judy Shirley will distribute leaflets at the July 9 Fox Point Farmers Market about the Tour des Trees August 2nd rest stop at Village Hall.

Old Business

a. Emerald Ash Borer Project Status

1. Planned activities update for balance of 2014 and beyond.
 - The Commission discussed public tree inventory charts attached to the minutes. Forester Gall noted that all village-owned ash trees are either being treated, are planned for removal, or he is waiting to see what to do. Of the 2,100 publicly owned ash trees in the Village, 915 are being treated. Forester Gall said he will be preparing ash removal cost estimates shortly and will inform residents which village trees on their property will be affected.

b. Stihl Tour des Trees August 2nd Rest Stop at Village Hall

1. Reflections.
 - The Commission agreed with Forester Gall that the event was a great morning, and represented a great effort by everyone in the Village.

New Business

a. 2015 Forestry Budget

Forester Gall reported that the balances from the 2013-14 budget and 2015 recommendations to Public Works Director/Village Engineer Scott Brandmeier were basically status quo, with the exception of the capital EAB monies. Forester Gall said that general tree plantings cost \$15,000 in 2013-14; elm tree removal, \$20,000; and annual EAB treatment, removal, and new plantings for ash trees, \$147,000.

b. 2014 vs. 2009 Public Tree Inventory Comparisons

Forester Gall distributed a chart comparing the Fox Point public tree inventory in 2009 and 2014. He said the chart shows the Village continues to plant *more diverse* species, and to remove *trees in poor condition*. *He observed that during the reinventory this past summer and fall, Norway maples are struggling* due to girdling roots, and sugar maples also are struggling. He noted that the current demand for trees makes them hard to get, and he would like to commit to buying a fixed number of trees in the future so they are available. He said it also is important that we get the diversity of species we want in future purchases.

c. Village Website

1. EAB (Emerald Ash Borer) Updates

- Forester Gall has updated EAB information on the website.

2. Donating for new trees and tree planting

- Commission members discussed how people could donate funds for new trees. These would be donations from people just wanting to help replenish the urban forest on public land in Fox Point. At the rate the Village is taking down trees, Forester Gall noted, it may not have money to replace them. The first choice for tree replacement may be village parks. Schools also will have major reforestation. The Fox Point Foundation or Fox Point Garden Club were suggested as a central collection point for donations.

d. Estimate of Range of \$\$'s for Tree Care and Planting

Noting that the Village has piles of firewood and mulch that could be available to residents from the trees it is cutting down, commissioners discussed how the Village could guarantee that homeowners don't take the wood out of this area and possibly spread EAB. Judy Shirley noted that the Village hasn't yet found EAB in our wood.

e. Adopt a Park Initiative

1. Judy Shirley discussed with the Commission an Adopt a Park Initiative that would encourage volunteers to continue to help beautify neighboring parks, as well as request funds to hire a summer intern to work in Fox Point parks and right-of-way landscape maintenance. She volunteered to write a paragraph on how the program would work, and present it to the Fox Point Village Board.

Louise Petering moved to recommend to the Village Board that they hire at least one DPW summer intern for the project. The motion was seconded by Nancy Warner, and after some discussion was passed unanimously.

f. Urban Wood Processor and Supplier

Hoppe Tree Service in Wauwatosa has opened The Urban Wood Lab, a retail gallery and showroom located next door to its main office. Hoppe Tree Service also has a sawmill and kiln operation in Grafton.

g. Next Meeting Date: Thursday, February 12, 2015, 4 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m.