Village of Fox Point Tree Commission

Minutes of February 20, 2014

A meeting of the Fox Point Tree Commission was held in the Village Hall Conference Room on Thursday, February 20, 2014 at 4:00 p.m.

Present: Trustee F. R. Dengel III, Chair; Karen Grube, Judy Shirley, Nancy Warner
Excused: Louise Petering
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 4:20 p.m.

Approval of Minutes. The minutes of the December 5, 2013 meeting were reviewed and approved.

Old Business

a. Emerald Ash Borer Project Status

1. Planned activities for 2014

- Forester Gall reported that winter pruning has been pretty much nonexistent due to the number of water main breaks and snow plowing in the village that have been hard on the staff.
- With respect to EAB, Forester Gall said he plans to get a bid out for soil treatment, to begin treating some of the smaller ash trees that are 17" in diameter or less.

2. Cold effects on EAB

- Forester Gall distributed a copy of an article he wrote about the impact of the extremely cold weather on the Emerald Ash Borer or possibly other tree-damaging insects. A phone call to Dr. Phil Pellitteri, head of the Insect Diagnostic Lab at UW-Madison, confirmed Forester Gall's intuition that the weather was not cold enough and did not last long enough to have a significant impact on EAB larvae or some other insect species mortality.

3. 2014 DNR Urban Forestry Grant results

- Fox Point has received a 2014 DNR Urban Forestry Grant to update the village's 2009 public tree inventory. The Village Board approved using Wachtel Tree Science to do the work, which will start as soon as spring arrives.

b. International Society of Arboriculture Milwaukee Conference, August 2-6, 2014

1. Stihl Tour des Trees to benefit the TREE Fund - promotion

- Forester Gall briefed the Committee on a meeting he attended about how to promote the event. Suggestions included setting up a rest stop at E. Bradley Rd. and N. Lake Drive in Fox Point for riders as they bike through the village mid-morning on August 2. Other event promotion ideas include press releases, hanging a banner

over Lake Drive to welcome riders, having a booth at the site to educate people about trees, planting a tree at the rest stop site this spring, and publicizing the ride in the Fox Point-Bayside schools to encourage kids to come out for the event. The Committee passed a motion endorsing the rest stop in Fox Point and supporting publicity efforts.

New Business

a. 2014 Forestry Budget including EAB Component

- The budget is pretty much on track from last year. A total of $154,000 is planned for ash removals, stump grinding, replacement, treatments and program administration. Judy Shirley questioned whether there might be some uses for the wood by village residents, perhaps by woodworkers or as firewood. Forester Gall said it would take all the North Shore communities, working together, to resolve the issue. He added that the state Department of Natural Resources is in the process of hiring four people statewide who will be working on the issue of wood utilization.
- A total of 99 trees will be planted in the village this spring, including some ash tree replacements.
- There is $15,000 budgeted for normal replacement tree planting and $20,000 for elm removals.
- A copy of the "2013 Forestry Activities Report" was distributed to T C members.

b. Access to public tree inventory on Village website

- The village is working to make its tree inventory data on the village website more accessible to residents.

c. Development of policy to encourage and direct volunteers

- Judy Shirley suggested that the village develop a policy to encourage and direct residents who volunteer to do such things as basic weeding on village property, but don't know whom to contact for permission. After some discussion, Tree Commission members recommended that part of the job description for the new assistant village manager indicate that this person would be the intermediary with resident volunteer adults, giving them advice, permission, and oversight to do the voluntary task the residents have presented.

d. Bird City Wisconsin Recertification and International Migratory Bird Day – May 3rd

- The Village of Fox Point has been recertified as a Bird City.

e. Arbor Day – April 25th

- The Arbor Day celebration will be on April 25 at 3:45 p.m. Karen Grube will work with Stormonth Elementary School to see how many students can be involved .

Next meeting date: June 12, 2014, 4 p.m. The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 p.m.