

Village of Fox Point Tree Commission

Minutes of February 12, 2015

A meeting of the Village of Fox Point Tree Commission was held in the Village Hall Conference Room on Thursday, February 12, 2015, at 4:00 p.m.

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

Ex Officio: John Gall, Village Forester

Guest: Ramsey Radakovich, deputy regional manager, Milwaukee County Department of Parks, Recreation & Culture

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 4:15 p.m.

Approval of Minutes. The minutes of the October 23, 2014 meeting were approved as amended to clarify wording under New Business, items a., b. and f.

Old Business

a. Emerald Ash Borer Project Status

1. Planned activities update from winter 2014 and beyond.
 - Forester Gall reported that 182 public ash trees have been removed under contract, and 143 were removed in-house. A total of 137 new trees of diverse species are scheduled to be planted this spring.

b. Request of Tree Commission for Additional Summer Intern

Forester Gall said there are sufficient funds in the budget to hire a fourth summer employee in 2015, whose focus would be working in the parks. He asked Judy Shirley to provide a list of priorities for village plantings, and asked for suggestions from the Fox Point Garden Club.

New Business

a. 2014 Forestry Activities Report Review

Commissioners reviewed the report distributed by Forester Gall, who noted that the Village lost a number of trees from the storm last June 30. This winter, workers completed street tree pruning in Ward 6 and the south half of Ward 5, and did some training pruning in trees planted since 2009.

b. Urban Wood Utilization/Recycling

Ramsey Radakovich attended the meeting, at the Commission's invitation, to share information about Milwaukee County's urban wood utilization program. Forester Gall explained that most of the trees the Village removes are not marketable, but he would like to do something with the wood the Village generates, and would also like to utilize county resources. He said he has a staff with lots of work to do, and is trying to figure out how to do the EAB work efficiently.

Mr. Radakovich asked the commissioners about their goals, what are they doing now, and what they want to change. F. R. Dengel said his goal is for the Village to be financially prepared for the arrival of EAB, and not have to rearrange its budget to deal with it. Karen Grube said one of the Village's needs is having a place to put this wood.

c. New Village Website Utilization

1. EAB updates.
 - Forester Gall has updated EAB information on the Village website.
2. Donating for new trees and tree planting.
 - Judy Shirley said this is an opportunity to build a fund for the Village to support the planting of additional trees in Fox Point. The Fox Point Foundation or Fox Point Garden Club were suggested as a central collection point for donations.

d. Discuss Future Meeting Dates and Topics

The next meeting date is Thursday, June 11, 2015, at 4 p.m.

Any other matters that may come before the Tree Commission.

Informational only – no action taken.

1. International Arbor Day will be held on Friday, April 24. Fox Point will hold its Arbor Day celebration on that day also.
2. A Migratory Bird Day celebration will be held in Fox Point at 8 a.m. on May 2.
3. Marek Landscaping has been hired to do a controlled burn of Indian Creek Park this spring. The burn will be beneficial to native plants at the park. A public information meeting will be held to notify neighbors.
4. The board unanimously approved a motion made by Judy Shirley, and seconded by Louise Petering, expressing its appreciation and thanks to F. R. Dengel for his leadership and dedicated service as chair of the Tree Commission since 2010. Trustee Dengel did not seek another term on the Fox Point Village Board this spring. The Board will name a new Village trustee to chair the Tree Commission.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:35 p.m.