

Village of Fox Point Tree Commission

Minutes of June 16, 2016

A meeting of the Village of Fox Point Tree Commission was held in the Village Hall Conference Room on Thursday, June 16, 2016, at 4:00 p.m.

1. Roll Call

Present: Trustee Eric Fonstad (Chair), Judy Shirley, Karen Grube, & Nancy Warner

Ex Officio: John Gall, Village Forester

Absent: Louise Petering

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 Fonstad called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes.

The minutes of the February 11, 2016 meeting were approved.

3. Old Business

a. Emerald Ash Borer Project Status/Revisions to Plan

Forester Gall reported that the village's contractor is currently working on trunk injection treatments to prevent emerald ash borer (EAB) infestation. A total of 269 village ash trees are receiving trunk injections this year. This is done once every two years. Next year 358 trees are scheduled to receive trunk injections. In addition, 275 smaller diameter ash trees (under 15") are receiving annual soil injection treatments.

One of the trees removed this year is suspected of being infected with EAB which would be the second infected tree found in the village.

Forester Gall described his experiences in working with the community of Butler where there has been a rapid spread of the EAB infestation.

He also reported that he expects that about 100 ash trees will be identified for removal by the Village over the winter.

b. Projects List for Forestry/Parks Summer Intern

Ms. Shirley reported that she has been working with the Village Forester to develop a list of projects for the summer intern. The list is based on the list prepared last year, including projects that were not completed last year and projects that need to be done again this year. She mentioned specifically keeping up with weeds around the shrubs on Lake Drive.

Ms. Shirley offered to meet with the forestry/parks summer intern to help them identify plants that should be removed.

c. Indian Creek Controlled Burn - Update

Mr. Fonstad noted that this subject was being addressed by the Village board. It was the consensus of the commission that this item be removed from the agenda as it is more appropriate to be dealt with it at the Village board.

d. Leaf Composting

Forester Gall reported that the Director of Public Works contacted Mequon about leaf composting and was advised that Mequon is not interested in investigating any kind of cooperation with the Village for leaf composting. Forester Gall said that he understands that Department of Public Works is investigating another option for leaf composting.

The Commission members discussed various ideas for encouraging the Village to develop a leaf compositing program, including working with other communities in the north shore. Mr. Fonstad said that at the July Village board meeting he will propose that the subject be added to the August village board agenda. Ms. Grube and Ms. Shirley offered to research what other communities are doing regarding leaf and other green material composting and make that information available to the Director of Public Works and the other members of the Commission.

e. 2015 Forestry Activities Report to Village Board 4/12/16

Forester Gall reported that he presented his 2015 Forestry Activities Report to the Village trustees at their April 12, 2016 meeting. He noted that the report was well received and that responded to questions from the trustees.

f. Arbor Day 2016 Feedback

Forester Gall reported that the 2016 Arbor Day program was a great success and that the staff at Stormonth School is committed to conducting a similar program next year. He thanked everyone for making the program a success.

4. New Business

a. EAB Issues on Private Property

Mr. Fonstad thanked Forester Gall for distributing copies of the Village ordinance regarding diseased trees and shrubs. In response to questions, Forester Gall reported that the ordinance has been used with regard to Dutch Elm Decease, that during his tenure as Forester he has sent approximately fifteen letters to home owners requiring them to remove deceased trees, and that no homeowners have objected or appealed his determination to the Tree Commission. The members of the Commission discussed issues that are expected to arise once EAB becomes more evident in the Village. It was noted that the ordinance requires the homeowner to remove the wood, etc. from diseased trees from the Village.

The members of the Commission reviewed resources available to residents through the Village website and through contacting the village. Forester Gall stated that he has a list of accredited arborists who work in the Village which he makes available to residents who ask about tree removal services. He also noted that information about EAB is made available during community events such as the community open house.

b. Fox Point Community Day

Forester Gall reported that the community open house held June 11, 2016 was a great success. Logs from the ash tree removal program were sawn on a portable sawmill and DPW employees plan to use the lumber to build a couple benches to be placed in the Village.

c. Discuss Future Meeting Dates and Topics

The next meeting date is Thursday, December 1, 2016, at 4:00 p.m.

5. Any other matters that may come before the Tree Commission (informational only – no action taken).

Ms. Shirley asked at the Forester Gall to look into removing the scraggly shrub in the triangle at the base of the Beach Drive hill. She also suggested that trees not be replanted in areas such as certain places along Santa Monica where trees have died because of exposure to road salt. Finally, she suggested that Garden Club members work with the MMSD to determine how to maintain the rain gardens in front of Village Hall and the Police Station. Ms. Grube offered to contact MMSD to determine whether they have a botanist who can assist in identifying desirable plants in these areas.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.