

Village of Fox Point Tree Commission

Minutes of February 11, 2016

A meeting of the Village of Fox Point Tree Commission was held in the Village Hall Conference Room on Thursday, February 11, 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

Also Present: Mike Ruhland and, for a portion of the meeting, Scott Brandmeier

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 October 22, 2015 meeting were approved.

3. Old Business

a. Emerald Ash Borer Detection in Village

Forester Gall reported that the first detection of EAB in the village was made by Lance Wallace in early January while he was working for the Village's EAB contractor. A press release was issued by the Village and additional information was provided to the Village Board. No further infested trees have been identified.

b. Emerald Ash Borer Project Status/Revisions to Plan

Forester Gall reported that 106 ash trees will be removed this winter by the Village's contractor and an additional 82 ash trees will be removed by Village staff. Trunk injections will be made to trees that are 15" diameter and above this year (was previously 18" and above). Soil injections will continue this year. Of the 600 ash trees that were unclassified as of last year, 100 will be designated for removal in 2016. Between 900 and 1,000 ash trees on Village land are in the treatment pool.

Ms. Shirley asked Mr. Gall to investigate the possibility of using some of the ash logs from removed trees to build Leopold-style benches for placement of Village property. She noted that Lance Wallace is able to build such benches. Lance Wallace has a portable sawmill that can saw logs into lumber for bench construction. Forester will check with staff to see if DPW employee (Wally) would be able to construct a couple of benches.

Ms. Shirley offered to count the ash trees over 6" in diameter in the Indian Creek woods that are within 50' of a path for future planning purposes.

c. Future Status of Forestry/Parks Summer Intern

Forester Gall stated that there will be an intern again this summer to address forestry projects. Ms. Shirley will prepare a list of suggested projects.

d. Indian Creek Controlled Burn - Update

Forester Gall said that weather conditions have not been good for the planned burn. He reviewed a February 1, 2016 letter from Marek Landscaping which outlines plans for continued ecological restoration at Indian Creek, including the planting of 650 native plant plugs in the upstream portions of the project and continuing cattail control measures.

e. Lake Drive - Shrub Bed Renovation Project

Ms. Gruber and Ms. Shirley described plans to restore the shrub bed along the Lake Drive path.

f. Arbor Day 2016 Planning

Ms. Gruber outlined plans for planting a tree on Arbor Day April 29, 2016. Forester Gall noted that a new form of proclamation is required this year. He has prepared an appropriate resolution for adoption by the Village Board.

Mr. Brandmeier joined the meeting.

Ms. Gruber reported that she spoke to Village staff about adding a Tree City link to the Village website.

4. New Business

a. Leaf Composting

Mr. Brandmeier described space constraints that limited the ability of the Village to grind, store and distribute collected leaves as mulch. He stated that he favored finding a site for citizens to pick up wood chips and composted leaves. He said that 900 to 1,000 tons of leaves are collected each year, stored in a pile in the DPW yard and then trucked to Grafton. The arrangement has the advantage of avoiding dumping fees for the leaves. A similar amount of yard waste is collected by the Village each year which costs the Village between \$35 and \$40 per ton for disposal.

The Commission members discussed possible ways to facilitate the composting of leaves for use by Village residents, including working with Mequon to get access to their composting operation, renting a tub grinder to grind leaves and possibly yard waste in the DPW yard, and developing a site where residents could pick up wood chips and composted leaves. Mr. Brandmeier will contact Mequon, review plans for the previous proposal for a drop off site at the South end of the DPW yard, and explore possibilities with Village staff.

Mr. Brandmeier left the meeting.

b. Spring 2016 Tree Planting Program

Forester Gall discussed the list of 102 trees planned for planting in spring 2016. He noted that it is becoming even more difficult to find suitable planting stock.

c. Landscape Plans for F.R. Dengel Flagpole

Forester Gall distributed a drawing of the plantings proposed for the F.R. Dengel flagpole. The Commission members indicated that the plans were appropriate for the site. The dedication is scheduled for June 12, 2016.

d. Discuss Future Meeting Dates and Topics

The next meeting date is Thursday, June 16, 2016, at 4:00 p.m.

Forester Gall reviewed the forestry activities report for 2015.

The members of the Commission requested that the next agenda include a discussion of EAB issues involving ash trees on private property and how they might affect the Village.

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

None.

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