

Village of Fox Point Tree Commission

Minutes of December 6, 2018

A meeting of the Village of Fox Point Tree Commission was held in the Village Hall Conference Room on Thursday, December 6, 2018, at 4:00 p.m.

1. Roll Call

Present: Trustee Eric Fonstad (Chair), Judy Shirley, Louise Petering, Karen Grube & Ramsey Radakovich

Absent: None

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 Fonstad called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Also in attendance was Dennis Falck, 850 E. Dean Road, Fox Point.

Persons Desiring to be Heard: None

2. Approval of Minutes.

The minutes of the September 28, 2018, meeting were approved.

3. Old Business.

a. Review of Approved Resolution Establishing Policies Related to the Proper Disposal of Diseased Trees and Collection of Yard Waste

Forester Gall summarized amendments to the Village Code that were adopted by the Village Board upon the recommendation of the Tree Commission. Ms. Petering noted that she was concerned about the time periods specified in sections of the Code that were not amended and stated that she would discuss her concerns with the Director of Public Works.

b. Update on Indian Creek Woods Project

Forester Gall reported that the low responsive bid for removing the ash trees in the Indian Creek Woods came in at \$16,000. This is well below the projected amount of \$50,000 to \$60,000. He provided information on the five contractors who submitted bids in response to the request for proposals ("RFP"). The contractor with the low bid has done tree removal work for the Village the last two years and has special skills at clearing wood lots. Forester Gall is scheduled to meet with the contractor at the Indian Creek Woods on December 11, 2018, to mark the trees that need to be removed.

Forester Gall provided a list of the 230 trees that have been ordered to be used to replant the Indian Creek Woods. Mr. Radakovich asked whether Forester Gall had considered planting some or all of the new trees in the fall. He provided information about the experiences of the Milwaukee County Parks Department in planting trees in the fall and outlined some benefits to fall planting as compared to spring planting. Forester Gall stated that he would consider the

planting schedule for Indian Creek Woods and may choose to plant some of the trees in the fall. The members of the commission discussed the desirability of enlisting volunteers to help with planting and watering. They also discussed the importance of protecting the young trees from rabbits, mice and deer.

4. New Business

a. Forester's Activities Report

Forester Gall reported that the contractor has begun the winter removal of diseased ash trees. A total of 49 trees are scheduled to be removed by a contractor. DPW personnel will begin removing an additional 100 ash trees as soon as they have completed their fall leave collection work. A RFP has been issued for 99 trees that will be replanted in 2019.

Forester Gall reported that he is preparing an application for renewal of the Village's designation as a Tree City under the Tree City USA program. He will also be applying to renew the designation of the Village as a Bird City. Ms. Grube stated that the Garden Club will donate the \$125 fee for the Bird City application.

Arbor Day will be April 26, 2019. The program will be held at Maple Dale School at 3:00 p.m.

Forester Gall noted that 28% of the public trees in Fox Point were ash trees when the Village began its program to deal with EAB. 363 ash trees are yet to be removed, after which ash trees will represent only 11% of the public trees in the Village. 871 public ash trees are currently being treated, with a final target of 850. Forester Gall presented information on the numbers of European, Green and White ash trees on public property and noted that all types are susceptible to EAB.

b. *Fox Point of View* January 2019 Article

Forrester Gall reviewed an article on the revised policies on the removal of diseased trees that will appear in the January 2019 issue of the *Fox Point of View*.

c. EAB Insert for Real Estate Tax Bill Mailing

Forrester Gall reviewed an insert to be included in the mailing of real estate bills to residents explaining property owner's responsibilities with respect to the removal of diseased trees. The members of the Commission provided some suggested changes to the wording of the insert.

d. Discussion of Planting Species that do Not have Invasive Characteristics

Mr. Radakovich provided information on trees that have been used for replanting which have potential invasive tendencies, including Amur Maple, Callery Pear and Japanese Tree Lilac. He noted that, while it may still be appropriate to plant these trees in select locations, care must be taken so that they do not spread and invade naturally wooded areas. The members of the Commission discussed this information and considered writing an article for the *Fox Point of View* about recommended trees to plant to replace ash trees that have been removed.

Forester Gall stated that he would revise the Village's Recommended Street Trees list to note the potential invasive tendencies of certain trees.

e. Discuss Future Meeting Dates and Topics

The next meeting date is Thursday, March 28, 2019, at 4:00 p.m.

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

Forester Gall reported that 54 American Elm trees remain on public property in the Village. He provided Ms. Petering with maps showing the locations of these trees.

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