

Village of Fox Point Tree Commission

Minutes of December 12, 2019

A meeting of the Village of Fox Point Tree Commission was held in the Village Hall Conference Room on Thursday, December 12, 2019, at 4:00 p.m.

1. Roll Call

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

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.

Persons Desiring to be Heard: None

2. Approval of Minutes.

The minutes of the August 15, 2019, meeting were approved (with Ms. Petering abstaining).

3. Old Business.

a. Update on Indian Creek Woods Project

Forester Gall reported that an impressive number of Village residents came out to volunteer in wet and sloppy conditions on two Saturday mornings in October to help plant replacement trees at the Indian Creek Woods. No one complained and the planting went well. Wildlife protections were also added.

The completed project was inspected by a representative of the Department of Natural Resources on behalf of the Bay Lakes Regional Planning Commission. Based on this inspection, the Commission has reimbursed the Village \$2,500 of the cost of the project.

Next year, Marek will treat the area again to keep invasive plants at bay. In addition, more staking and mulch will be installed around the new plantings after the ground thaws in the spring.

Ms. Grube announced that the Garden Club has made \$500 available to buy additional plants for the Indian Creek Woods Project.

b. Update on EAB on Private Property Including Yard Waste Policy

Forester Gall reported that the Village's policies with respect to removing dead and diseased ash trees from private properties is becoming more widely understood by Village residents.

In response to questions from the Commission, he outlined the steps he takes when contacted by residents who have complaints about dead or diseased trees on neighboring properties. The Forester has developed standardized procedures that he uses when responding to requests from residents about problems with neighbor's trees. He noted that he issued four tree removal orders during the year.

c. Report on ATC Planting Grant and Replanting Efforts at Stormonth School

Forester Gall reported that the Village was not successful in receiving money as a result of the ATC Planting Grant application it submitted. The members of the Commission thanked Forester Gall for his efforts in this regard.

Forester Gall distributed a newsletter from the Fox Point-Bayside School District describing EAB infestations in Wisconsin and the program to remove about 100 diseased ash trees at Stormonth Elementary School. The article reports that Glendale resident and tree enthusiast, Marcus Crawford, is donating 25 chinquapin oak tree saplings to the School to help replant the area and plans to donate additional trees to the School in the future. The article also notes that Forester Gall is working with the School on the reforestation effort.

4. New Business

a. Forester's Activities Update

Forester Gall reported that 123 trees have been ordered for planting by the Village next year. He distributed a list of the plant material quote request listing the quantities and types of trees ordered. The list includes 36 species of trees

Forester Gall reported that the Village removed 56 tree stumps this past fall. The contractor hired by the Village to remove EAB infested ash trees on public property should finish its work in a week or two. He reported that the contractor (Limbwalkers) has done an excellent job. A total of 80 trees are being removed by the contractor, which, when added to the 64 small diameter trees removed the Village, brings the total to 144 trees removed in 2019. He estimates that 188 trees will be removed in 2020 which will then complete the mass tree removal part of the Village's EAB program.

Forester Gall noted that the Village will need to continue to remove ash tree sprouts and will need to direct resources to normal tree maintenance programs that have fallen behind with the emphasis on controlling EAB.

b. Discuss Future Meeting Dates and Topics

The next meeting date is Thursday, March 12, 2020, at 4:00 p.m.

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

Mr. Fonstad reported on recent Village Board actions. He reported that the Village Forester's contract for 2020 has been renewed, as has the EAB Management program for 2020. In addition, the Village Board approved retaining Marek to control cattails and invasive species in the Indian Creek stream bed and to plant 1,000 plant plugs at Indian Creek.

Ms. Petering asked a question about cutting vegetation along property lines. The members of the Commission discussed this matter.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.