

Village of Fox Point Tree Commission

Minutes of January 25, 2024

A meeting of the Village of Fox Point Tree Commission was held at the Fox Point Village Hall on Thursday, January 25, 2024, at 4:00 p.m.

1. Roll Call

Present: Trustee Eric Fonstad (Chair), Kim Caviggiola, Jonathan Knopp, Louise Petering & Ramsey Radakovich (Mr. Radakovich joined the meeting at 4:25 p.m.)

Ex Officio: John Gall, Village Forester

Also present were Patricia Mousseau, 180 W. Dunwood Rd., and Trustee Greg Ollman, 7525 N. Fairchild Rd.

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.

A quorum being present, Mr. Fonstad called the meeting to order at 4:08 p.m.

Following the roll call, Mr. Fonstad invited public comment.

Patricia Mousseau noted that the Village Board considered converting the intersection of Calumet and Santa Monica to a four way stop. She said that the trees in the Northeast corner of the intersection need to be trimmed back. She feels that if that were done there would be no need for a four way stop.

The members of the Commission discussed the need for open sight lines at intersections for the safety of vehicles, pedestrians and bicyclists and recommended Village staff make clearing vegetation on public property at intersections a point of emphasis in 2024.

2. Approval of Minutes.

Following discussion, the minutes of the November 2, 2023, meeting were approved.

3. Old Business.

a. Discussion of Private Property Tree Retention Alternatives

The members of the Commission reviewed their previous discussions of how best to maintain the Village's tree canopy. Forester Gall noted that the Village does a good job with public trees but has experienced a loss of tree canopy on private property, especially with tear downs and new construction and the loss of ash trees due to emerald ash borer.

He briefly summarized articles distributed to the Commission members prior to the meeting that describe approaches taken by other communities to offer residents incentives to maintain or enhance the tree canopy on private property. The members of the Tree Commission confirmed that an approach that uses the stormwater utility to give residents incentives appears to have the most promise. The challenge will be to come up with a program that is simple to understand and administer.

Forester Gall said that he does not have time available to develop a specific proposal and recommended that the Village retain the services of an outside arborist to put something together. The members of the Commission discussed this idea and endorsed Forester Gall's proposal.

The members of the Commission discussed requesting the Village Board to possibly modify Chapter 285-11 (Restrictions on Cutting) or repeal Chapter 310-20 to 23 (Clear-Cutting) and concluded that it would be best to leave these ordinances in place until the Commission has developed a specific proposal designed to protect and enhance the tree canopy that could replace these ordinances.

b. Marketing the Tree Commission Mission

The Commission members discussed marketing the Commission's mission and encouraged Forester Gall to continue promoting No Mow May to help tree pollinators and fall leaf mulching to retain tree nutrients.

c. Review of Spring 2024 Tree Planting along Beach Drive Revetment Project

Forester Gall distributed drawings showing the tree planting plans he developed for along the Beach Drive revetment project. He noted that dozens of trees were lost during the high lake level period before the revetment project and as a result of revetment construction activities. He also noted that he worked hard to accommodate Beach Drive resident's lake views.

4. New Business

a. Forester's Activities Update year to date

Forester Gall reported that a diverse selection of 102 two inch diameter trees have been ordered for planting in the Village in 2024 and an additional 20 five gallon Larch trees will be planted in the Indian Creek Woods.

The Village was awarded an Urban Forestry Grant in 2024 from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources that will be used to re-inventory public trees in the Village. As part of the grant program, the Village will conduct two training workshops for Village staff on planting and pruning. Staffs of the north shore communities will be invited workshops. In addition, the Village will conduct a public engagement session for Village residents on tree planting.

Forester Gall plans to prepare his Forestry Activity Report the first of February.

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

The members of the Commission discussed planning for observance of Arbor Day.

The next meeting of the Commission was scheduled for April 18, 2024 at Village Hall at 4:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 p.m.