

THE CONSERVANCY OF SOUTH BARRINGTON

Commission Meeting Minutes April 16, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by newly appointed Chair Diane Bodkin. Members present were: Jerry Murrin, Nancy Munao, Michael Niedzinski, and Chair Bodkin. Dustin Wire from McHenry County Conservation District was a guest.

March minutes were approved as read.

Chair Bodkin started the meeting by asking the members present what they thought the most important priority was at the moment. She answered: finding two new members for the commission. She charged each member to discuss the possibilities within their circle of friends and acquaintances. Bodkin will email Mayor McCombie with the urgency of filling the vacancies. At present, if one of the remaining three members is sick or out of town on business, there can be no quorum and thus no meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Eagle Scout Project

Commissioner Munao reported on the status of the first Eagle Scout project. She will be the commissioner following this project. She reported John Jagmin has received the approval to start his project. Munao will send to Jagmin on Village of South Barrington letterhead information about the tree labels, quantity, size, hole placement, and company. She will also send a "Fact Sheet" with some of the history of the Conservancy. Bodkin agreed to check and confirm that former Mayor Munao sent Jagmin a letter describing the observation platform to be sent with the deck plans. Bodkin added she has talked with Michele Brodie at the Village Hall about setting up an account for Jagmin to pay the bills incurred in his projects. Munao and Bodkin wrote an article on Jagmin for the May edition of *South Barrington Life* magazine.

Tree Identification

Munao and Bodkin will survey the conservancy arboretum to confirm the correct identifications of the trees according to the information in the "Tree Walk" brochure. They will mark the trees and tag the ones that can't be identified and find an authority who can. A correct copy of the lettering will be sent to Jagmin. Commissioner Niedzinski will walk the arboretum and mound to check the status of the trees May 9 at 6:30 p.m.

Seeding the Butterfly Garden

Munao reported nine volunteers help plant see in the butterfly garden April 6, racing to beat the rain. Seed was donated by McHenry County Conservation District and some harvested from the wildflowers planted in the Conservancy last spring. Dustin Wire advised commissioners to wait another month before pulling up Indian grass thatch to give native plants a change to grow. He cautioned people not to expect results from the seeds till next year's growing season.

NEW BUSINESS

2013-2014 Fiscal Budget

The new 2013-2014 budget was reviewed. Commissioner Murrin stated he sent the revised budget to the Village Secretary to be presented at the April Board meeting.

Assignments of Budget Oversight

Commissioner Niedzinski will take responsibility for oversight of the General Maintenance Budget; Munao, the Capital Projects Budgets; and Bodkin, the Programming Budget. Wire accepted his fees recorded in the budget for his services. He announced he will be at the Conservancy Friday to mow the cattails on the west side of the pond at 2 p.m. He said he would be willing to mow a path in the wildflower garden as well.

Programs

Barrington Rotary Kids Fest

Bodkin reported the status of the Conservancy booth at the Barrington Rotary Kids' Fest May 4. Munao will bring the tent and banner; Bodkin will bring supplies. Two high school students have been assigned to add extra help for the booth. The project is making classy note cards with pressed oak leaves.

Photography Classes

Bodkin announced the third annual Photography Class will be May 18, adults at 9:00 a.m. and Kids (4th grade to 7th) at 10:00 a.m. Munao will get the flyer to the kids at Rose School. Bodkin will ask Village Secretary Hooker to send email to the Homeowners' Presidents with the announcement.

Scarecrow Trail

The date for the Scarecrow Trail Contest was set for Sept 28 weekend to give entrants enough time to use the scarecrow for their subdivision festivities. The commissioners agreed to make this contest a fundraiser for plants in the Conservancy. Submission fees, as well as fees for votes.

The Mound

Bodkin reported the receipt of \$1000 donation from the South Barrington Garden Club. The monies will be used for Phase II of the plantings for the mound, this time grasses and shrubs. Munao and Bodkin will review the landscape plans to pare down the quantities to make manageable with the funds available. Watering access was discussed. It was hoped that water could be obtained from the creek and pond nearby when needed. Bodkin will check with Mr. Munao on the use of the hidden water pump when needed. It is hoped that members of the Friends of the Conservancy will help with the planting of the new plants.

Meeting with Chicago Wilderness Personnel

Bodkin and Munao will meet May 18 at 4:00 p.m. with representatives from Chicago Wilderness Leave No Child Inside momentum, Emilian Gezci and Andy Howard, a landscaper architect with expertise in children's architecture.

Friends of the Conservancy

Bodkin restated efforts to expand and educate Friends of the Conservancy

DREAMS & VISIONS

Meeting was open to members to suggest ideas for future projects and programs. Bodkin mentioned the Wildflower Garden, possible grants for work projects in the conservation area, connecting with Harper College's horticulture classes. Munao offered the hope of creating a resin trail sign for the trailheads, the kind that shows "You Are Here". Burns were also added to the list. Wire added the vision of having a seed collecting day and bluebird house building for young people to better understand the cycles of plants and to be a partner with nature. Munao said those projects would be good for kids with special needs. Bodkin will talk further with Wire about making those ideas happen.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Reported by Diane Bodkin, new Chairperson and Acting Secretary